



*"An intimate look at these
geniuses and titans of
their world at their most
introspective and scared."*

— ComicVine.com



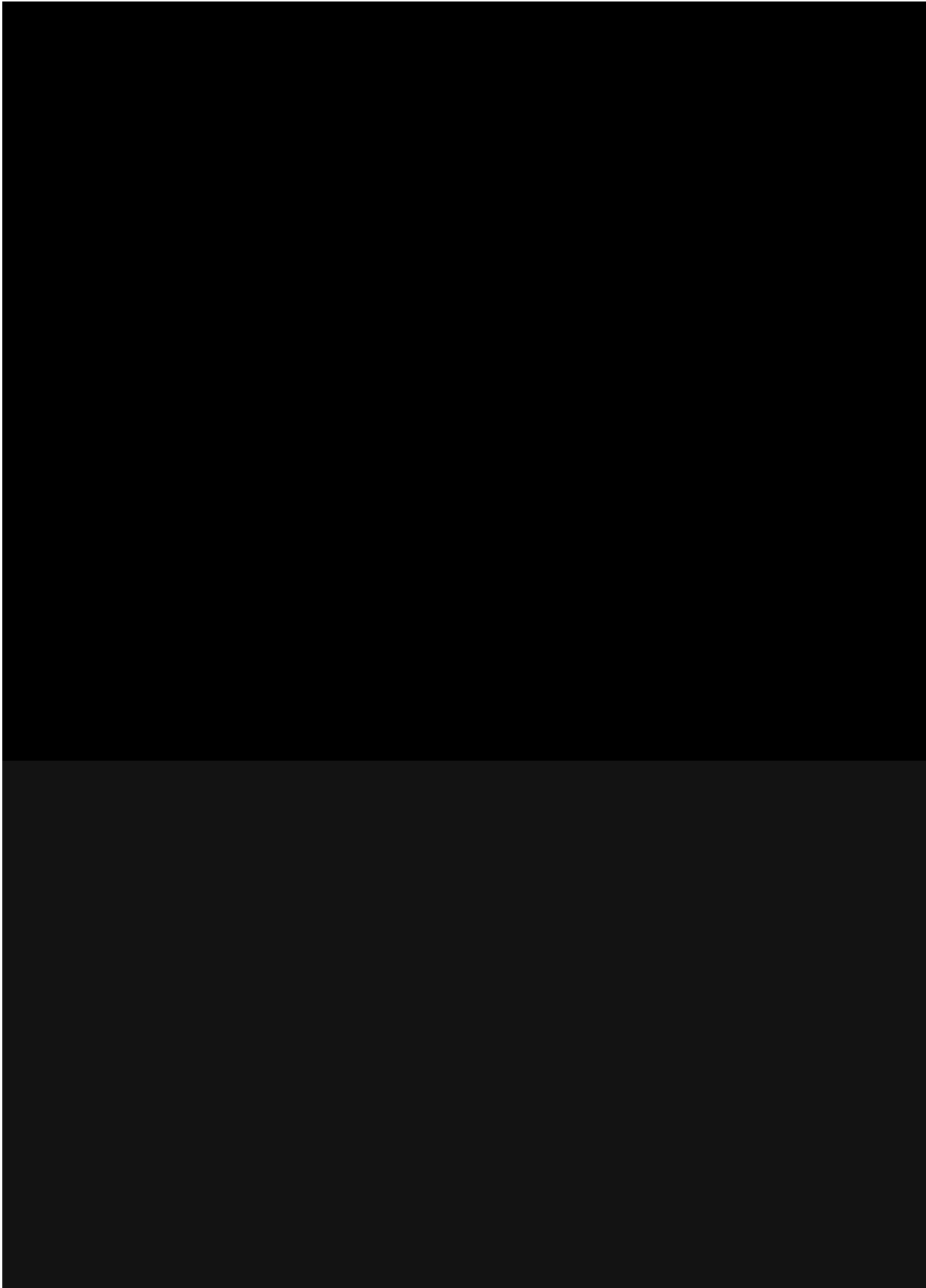
TIME RUNS OUT

VOLUME ONE

HICKMAN
SCHITI
CASELLI

MARVEL
NOW!

WALKER
DEODATO
CHEUNG





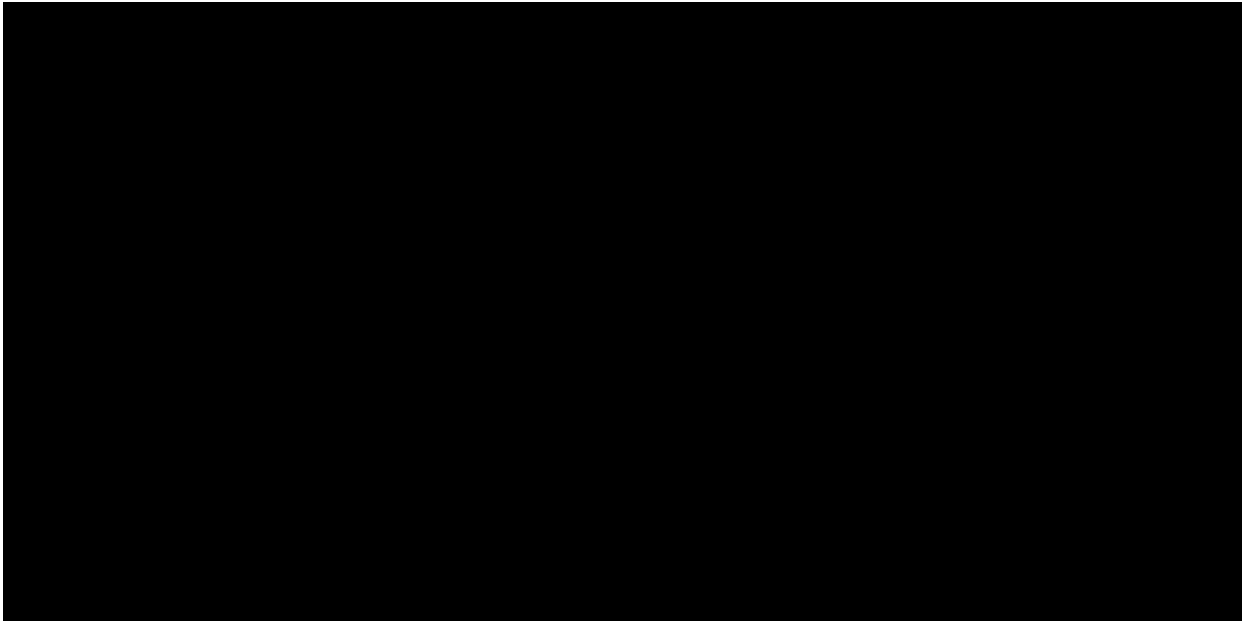
"Get your thinking cap on and give this one a read — Avengers is most definitely building toward something big." —Comicbook.com

THE ILLUMINATI KILLED A WORLD. THEIRS IS NEXT.

Jonathan Hickman's cataclysmic saga, two years in the making, jumps ahead to its epic climax. For Earth's Mightiest Heroes and the Illuminati, it has all been building to this — the day of the Final Incursion! Eight months after the events of Original Sin — and the revelation of the Illuminati's desperate, world-destroying actions — much has changed for the Avengers. How have they survived their sins? And the Cabal has re-formed with a new, deadly cast, but its motives are complicated. Both groups will fight to save their world — but have all the battles they've endured, all the sacrifices they've made, prepared either group for the inevitable moment where time runs out for everybody?

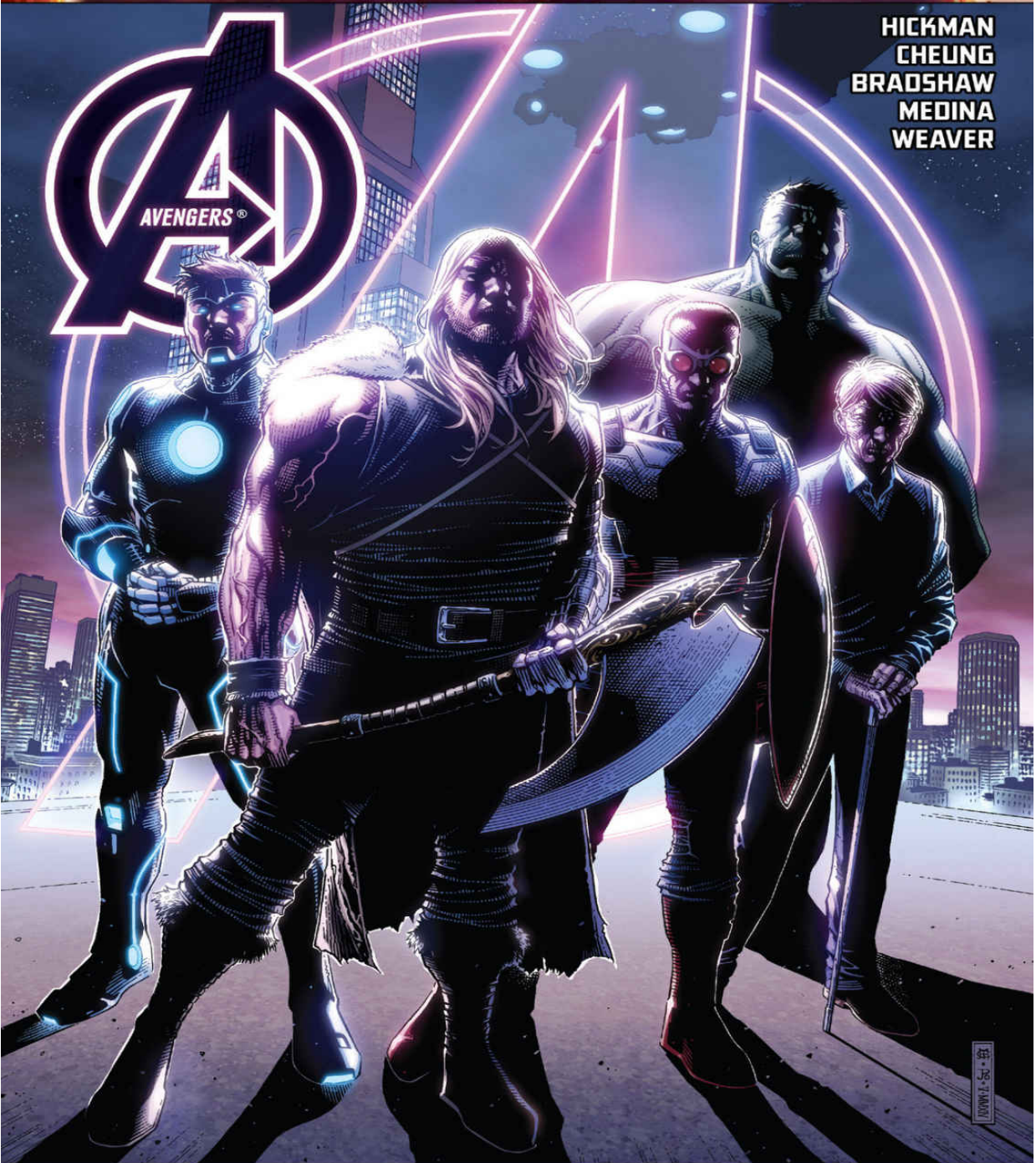
Collecting *Avengers* (2012) #25-37 and *New Avengers* (2013) #24-25
— written by Jonathan Hickman, and illustrated by Stefano Caselli,
Mike Deodato, Valerio Schiti and Kev Walker with Jim Cheung,
Nick Bradshaw, Paco Medina and Dustin Weaver.





IN 8 MONTHS ... TIME RUNS OUT!

**HICKMAN
CHEUNG
BRADSHAW
MEDINA
WEAVER**



MARVEL

035

PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS



IT STARTED
WITH TWO
MEN. IT STARTED
WITH AN IDEA.

EXPANSION.



THE WORLD WAS EVER
MORE DANGEROUS,
THREATS MORE FREQUENT,
ENEMIES ENDLESS.

SO THEY WERE SUMMONED.
NEW PLAYERS. SPECIFIC
PEOPLE FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS.



THEY TORE DOWN
WHAT THEY HAD
AND BUILT A NEW
MACHINE TO
ACHIEVE THEIR
EXPANDED GOALS.

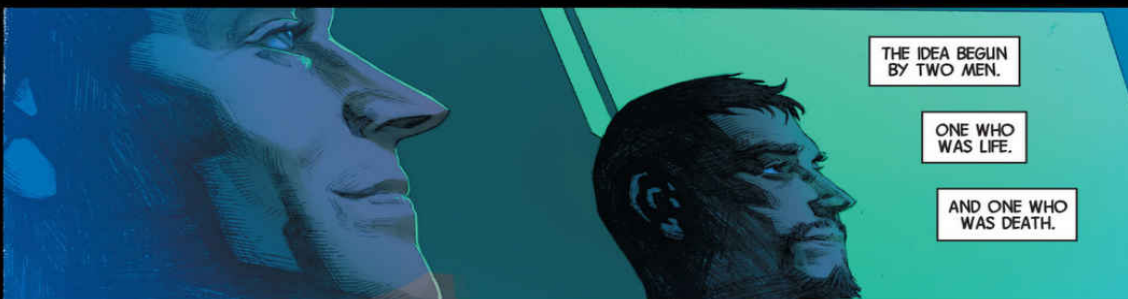
AND
THEN...THEY
ASSEMBLED.

THEY WERE
AVENGERS.



BUT ANOTHER GROUP, THE ILLUMINATI, BELIEVED
THEY KNEW BETTER. THEY BELIEVED IN THE OPPOSITE
OF EXPANSION...THEY BELIEVED IN SECRECY.

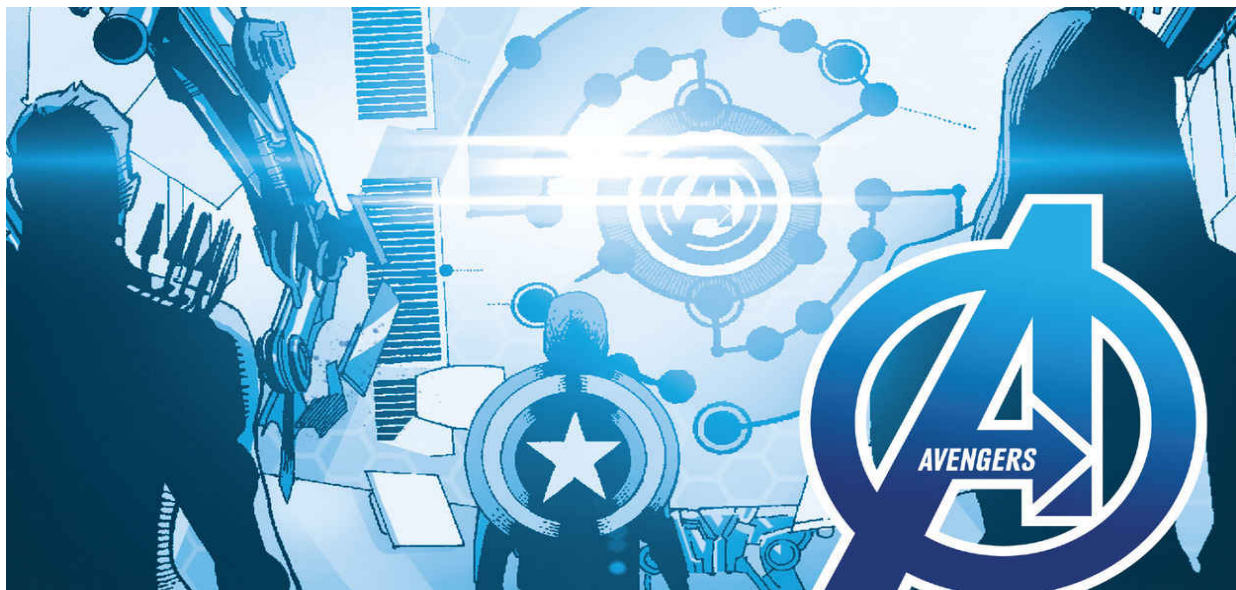
BETRAYALS, LIES AND DECEIT
DESTROYED THE IDEA.



THE IDEA BEGUN
BY TWO MEN.

ONE WHO
WAS LIFE.

AND ONE WHO
WAS DEATH.



“THE THREE AVENGERS”

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EIGHT MONTHS LATER



THE ALPHA WHAAN SYSTEM.

CORE
REACTIONS
ARE BECOMING
UNSTABLE.

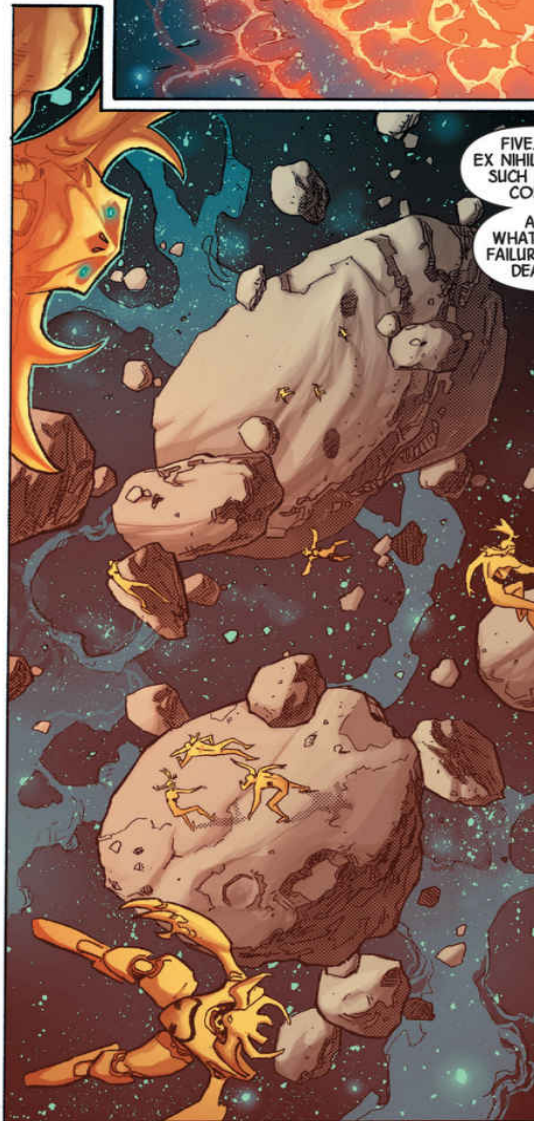
WE'RE
LOSING
IT.

NOT YET.
WE CAN
HOLD IT.

SING,
BROTHERS
AND SISTERS,
SING!

IT IS THE
SUN--LIFE-GIVING--
IT WANTS TO LIVE.
IT HAS TO--

NO.

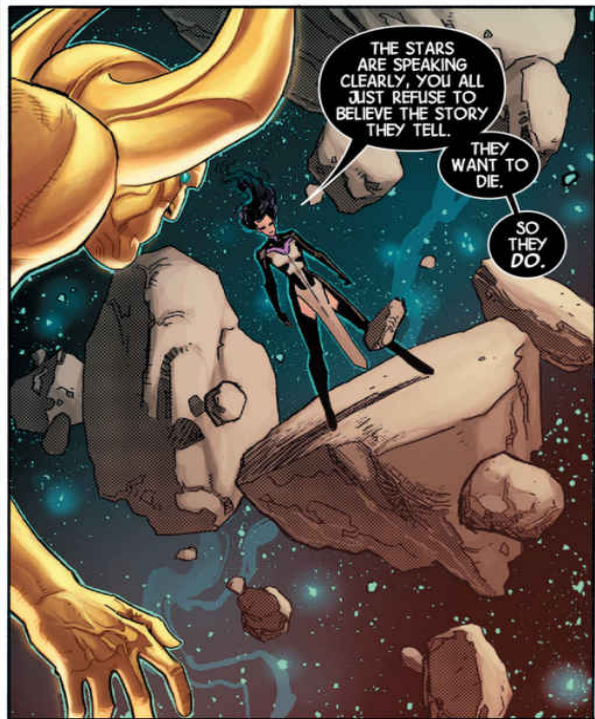


FIVE, FIVE
EX NIHILO GONE.
SUCH A HIGH
COST...

AND FOR
WHAT? ANOTHER
FAILURE...ANOTHER
DEAD STAR.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY WE--

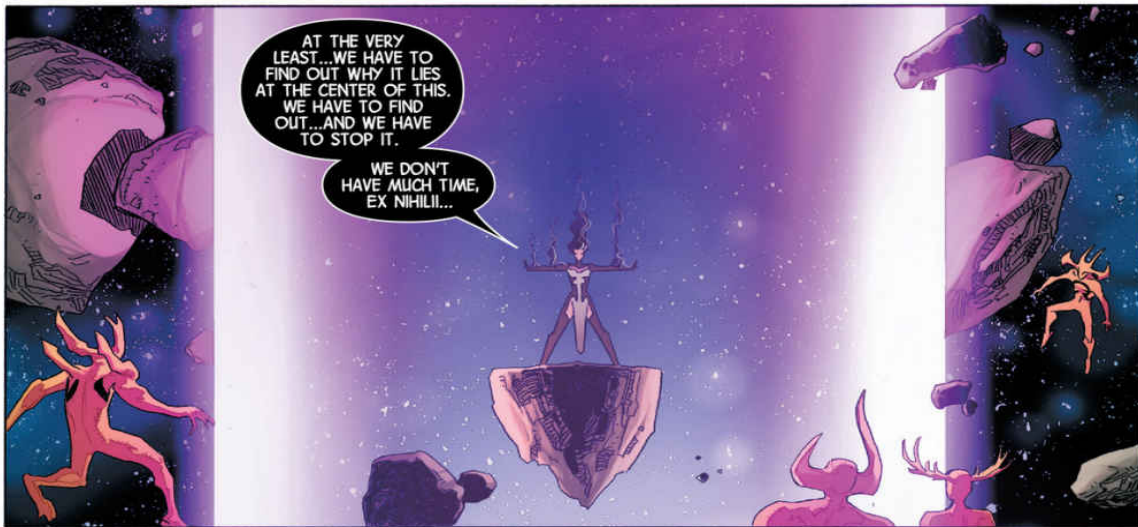
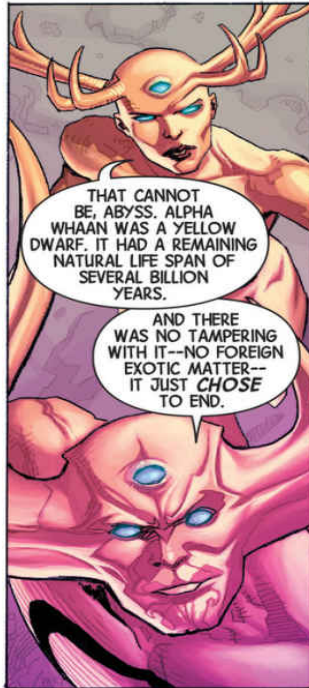
YES,
YOU DO,
EX NIHILO...

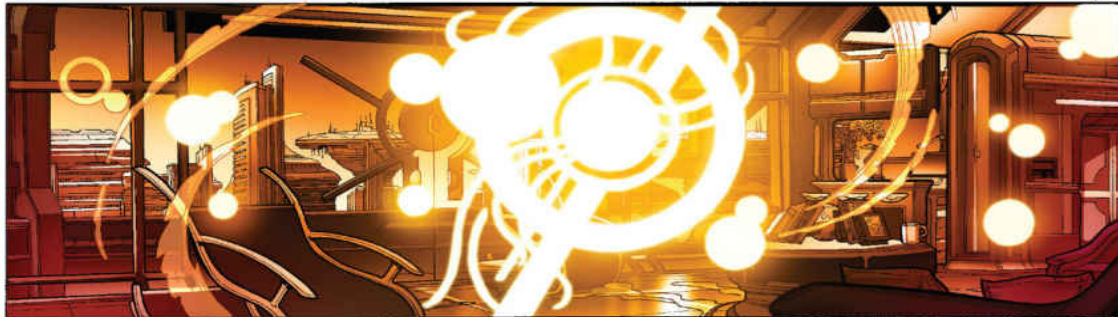
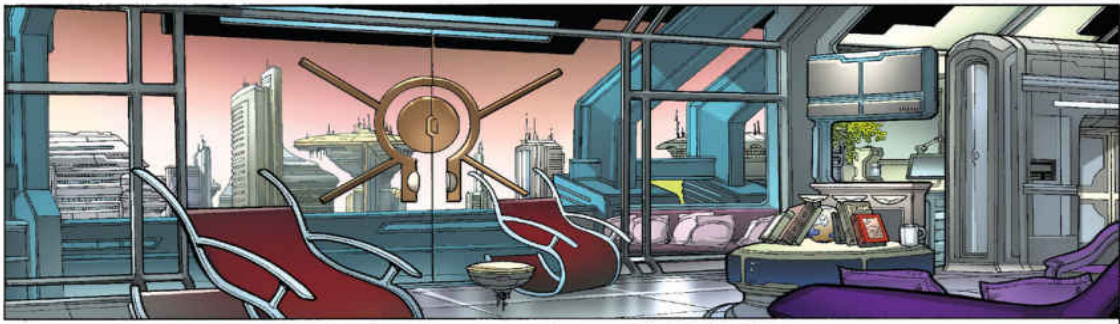


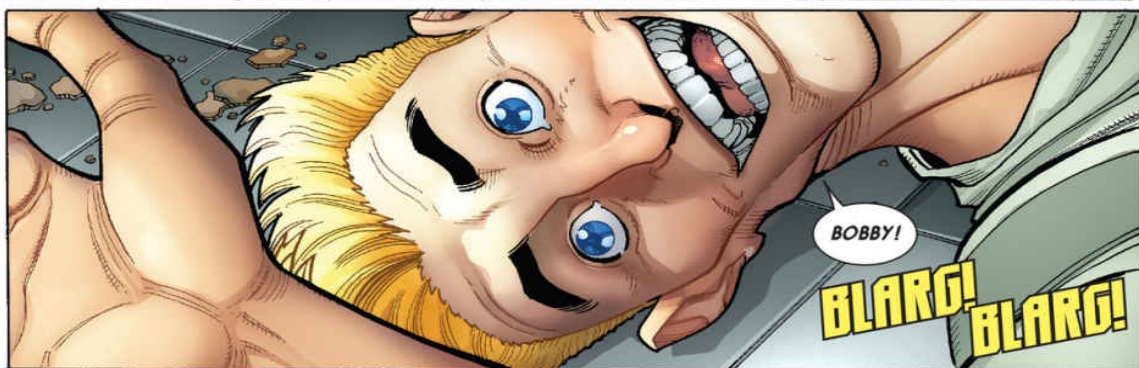
THE STARS
ARE SPEAKING
CLEARLY. YOU ALL
JUST REFUSE TO
BELIEVE THE STORY
THEY TELL.

THEY
WANT TO
DIE.

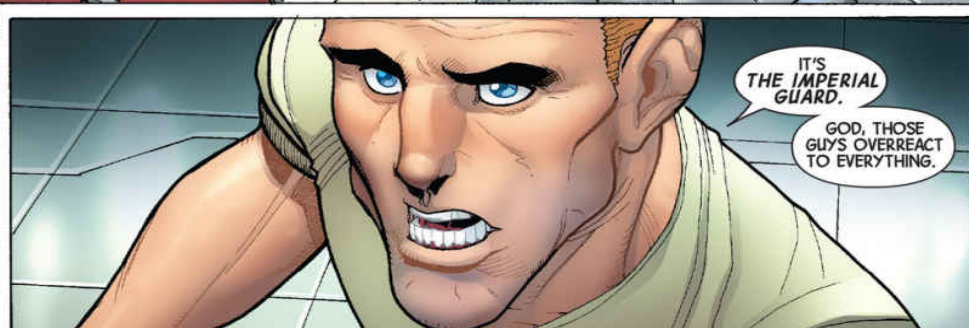
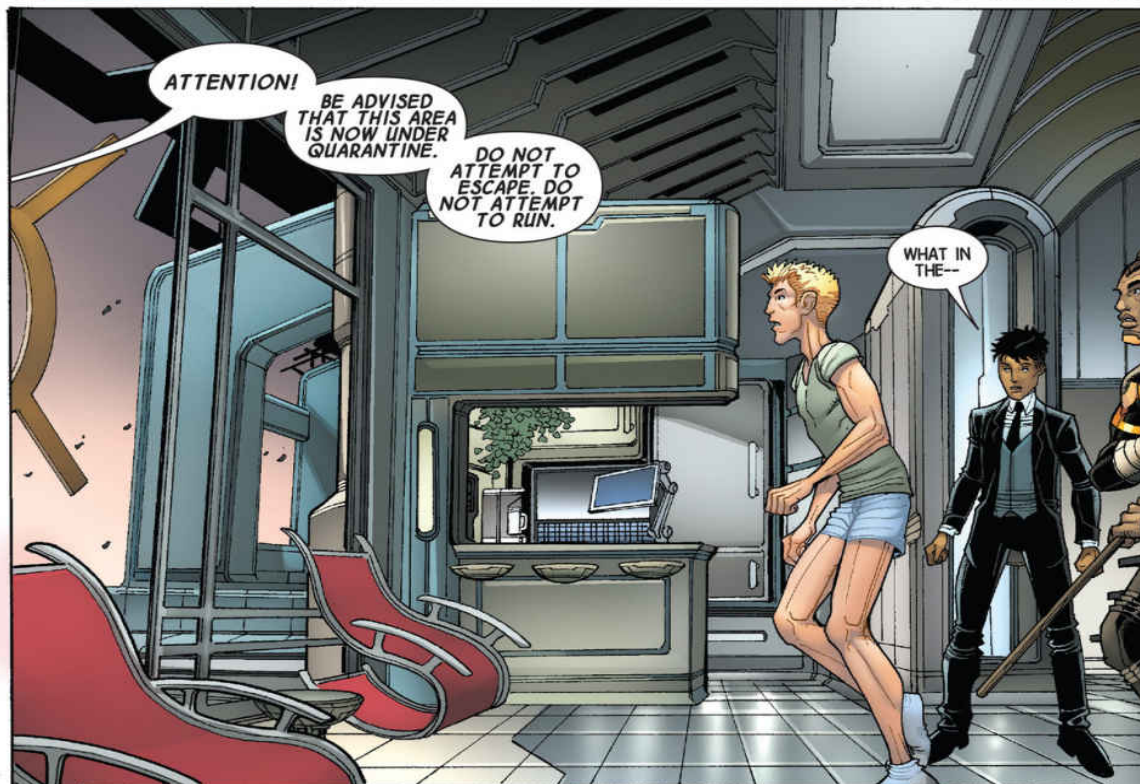
SO
THEY
DO.







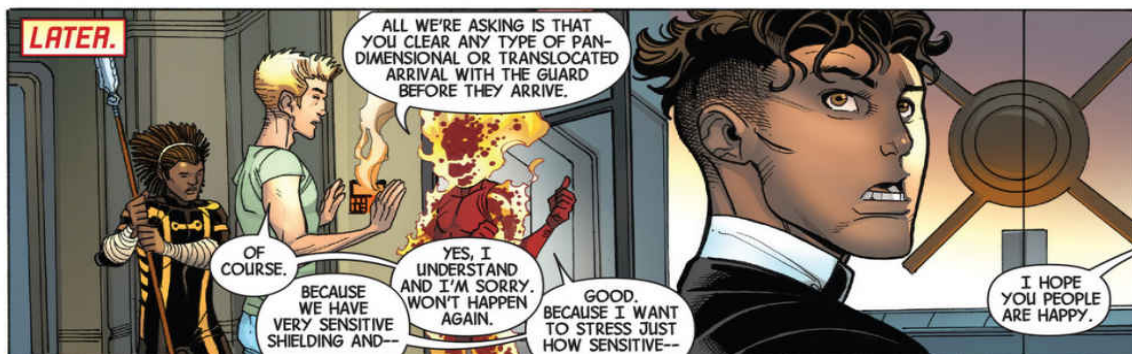


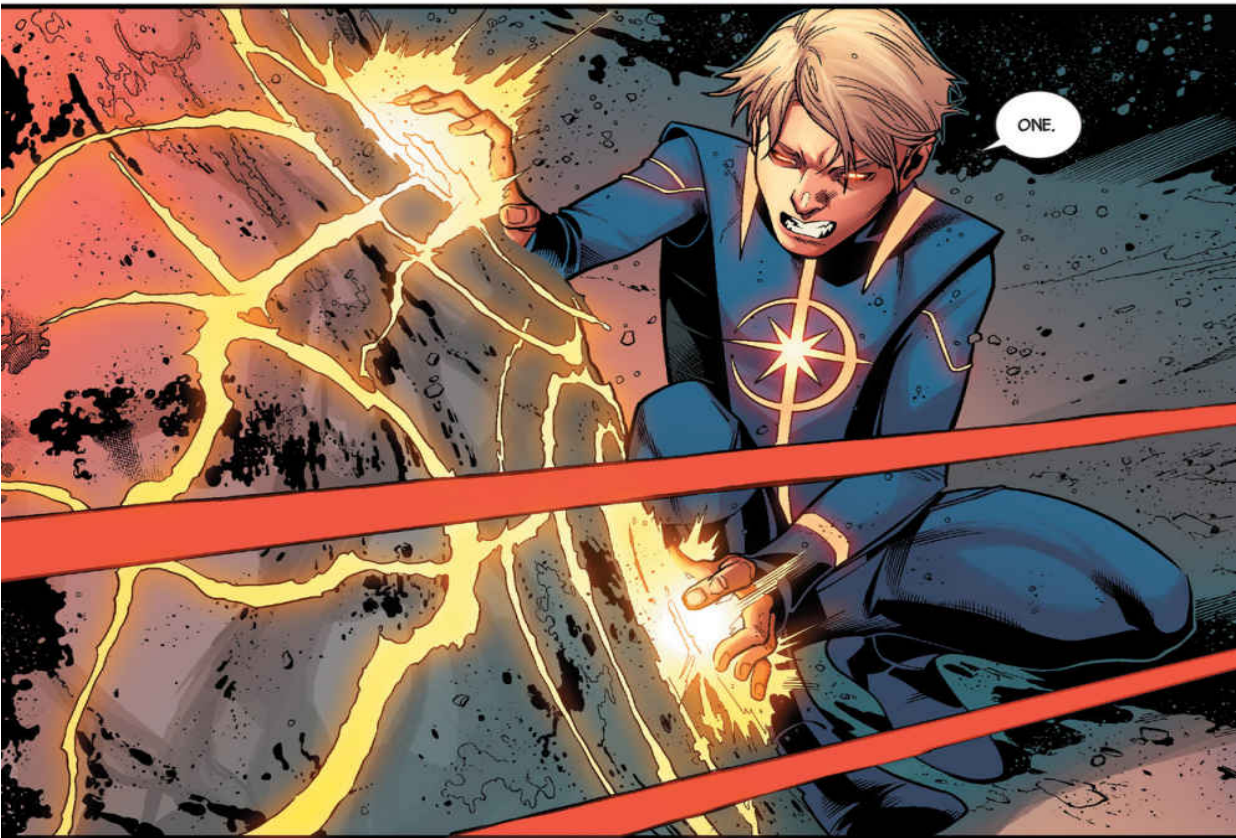
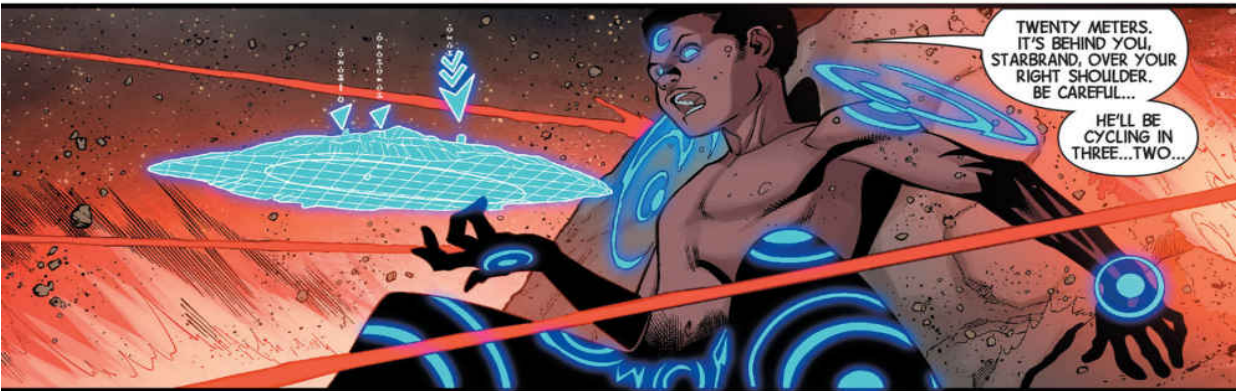


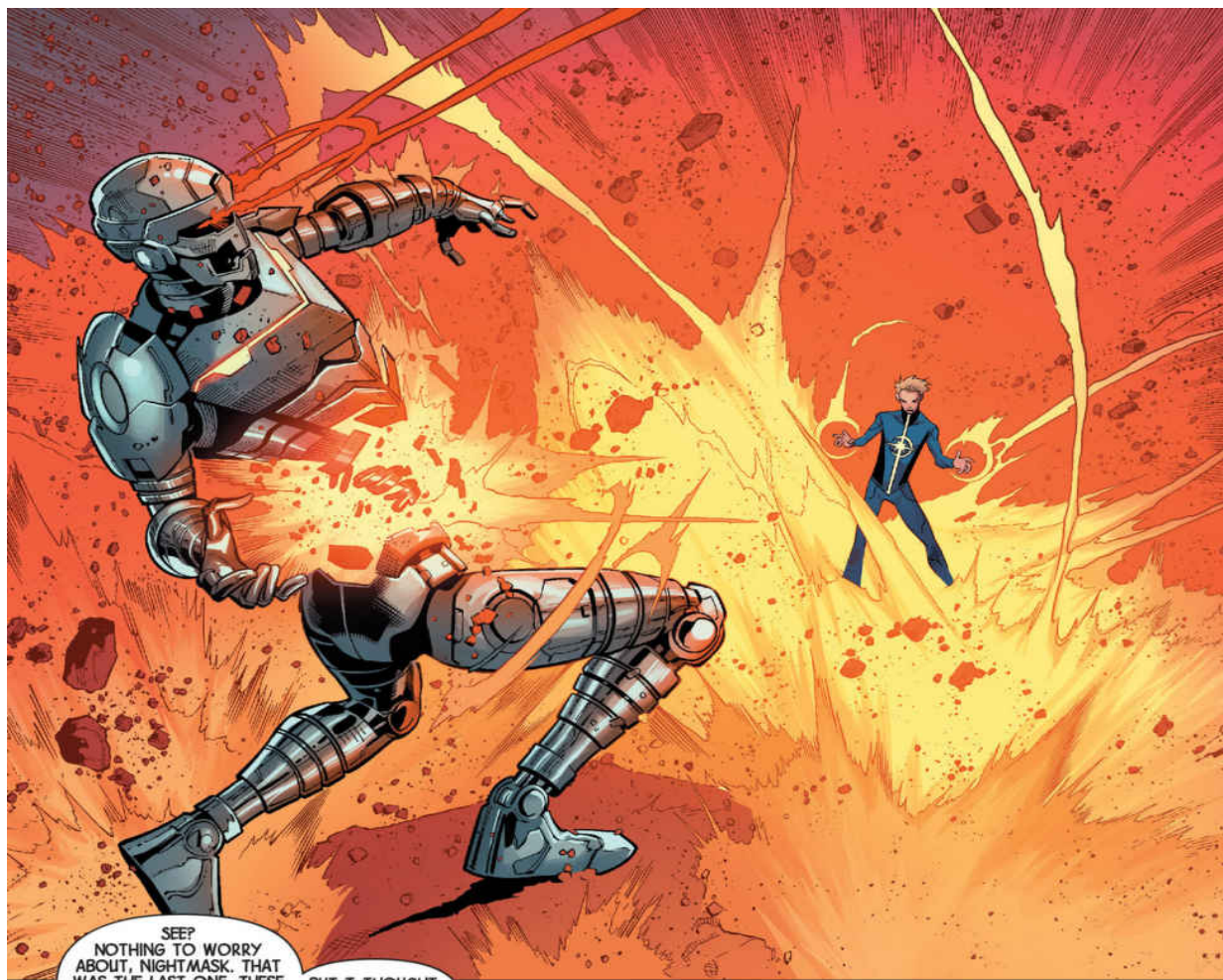


WELL...
THEIR HOUSE,
THEIR RULES,
BROTHER.

YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
CHOSE TO LIVE
ON ANOTHER
PLANET.







SEE?
NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT, NIGHTMASK. THAT
WAS THE LAST ONE. THESE
OLD MODELS DON'T STAND
A CHANCE AGAINST US
NEWER SYSTEMS.

BUT I THOUGHT
ALL THESE **ALEPHS**
WERE DONE WHEN
THE BUILDERS LEFT
THIS UNIVERSE.

THEY
WERE...



WHICH IS WHAT
MAKES THIS SO
INTERESTING.

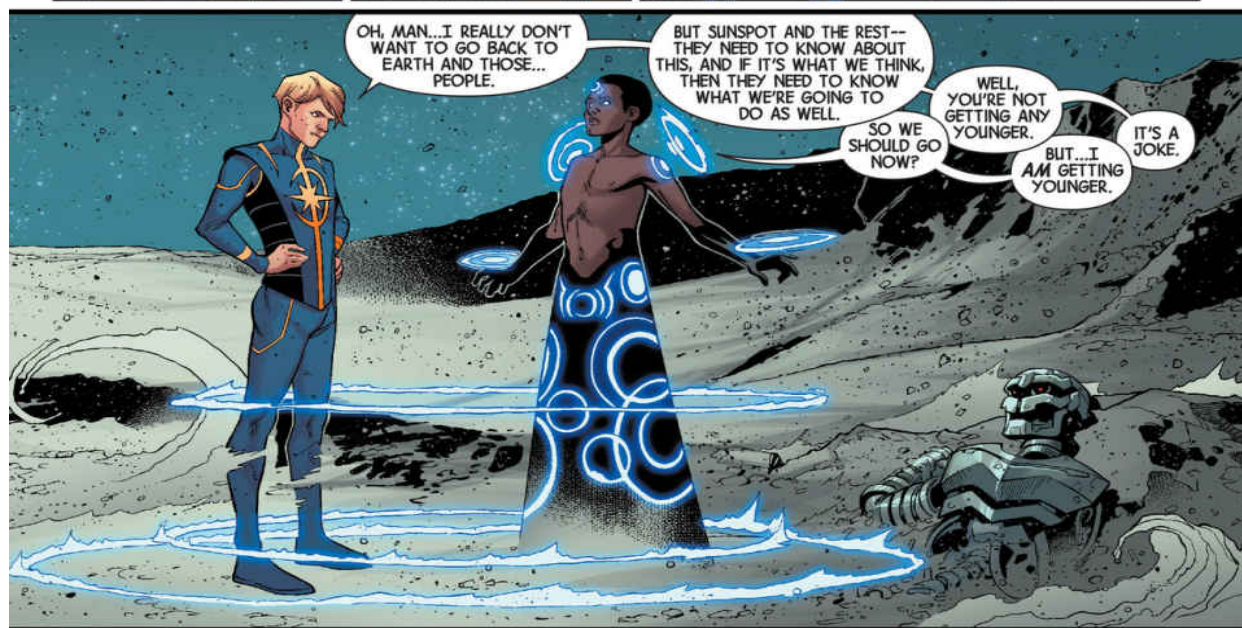
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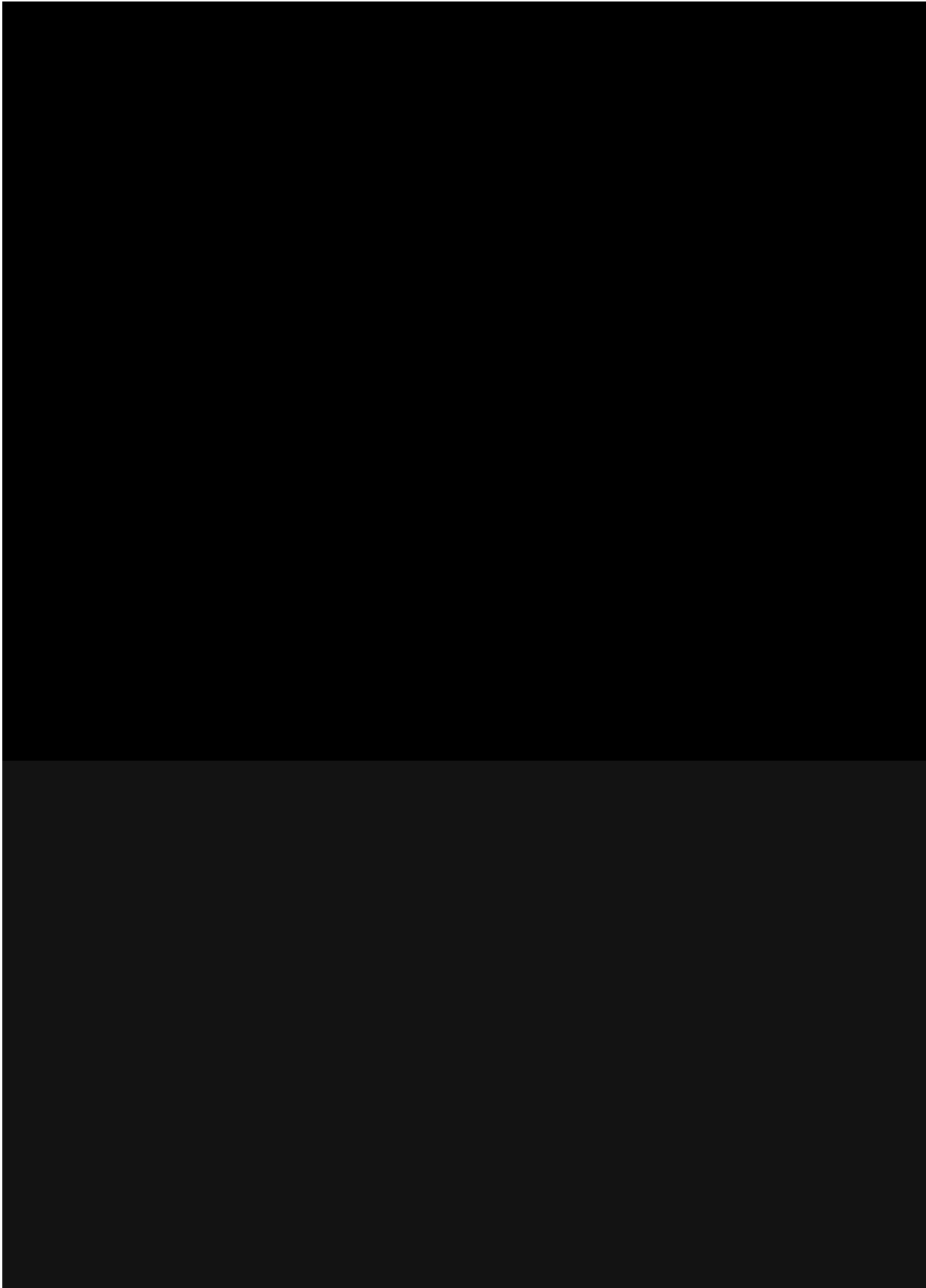
AH!
THAT
EXPLAINS
THAT.

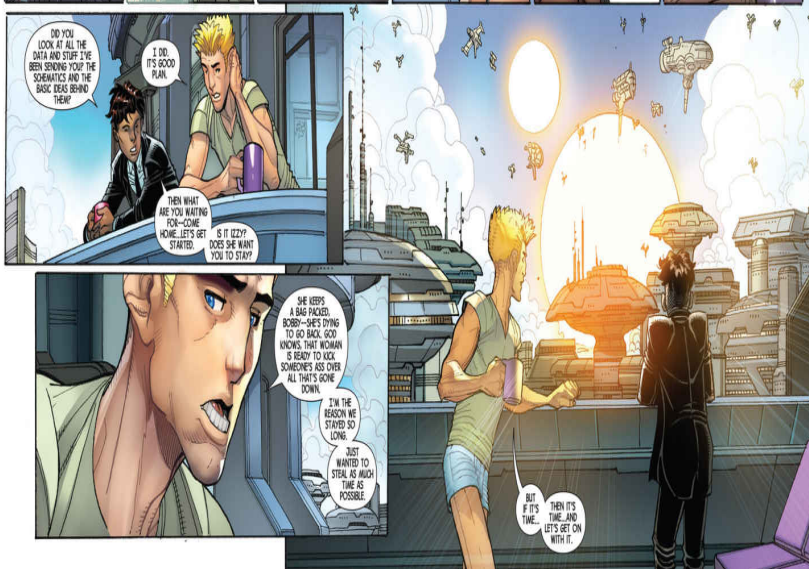
I'M
ACCESSING ITS
CORE AND
TRANSFERRING THE
DATA TO YOU, BUT
I'M PRETTY POSITIVE
THESE DIDN'T
ORIGINATE IN
OUR SLICE.

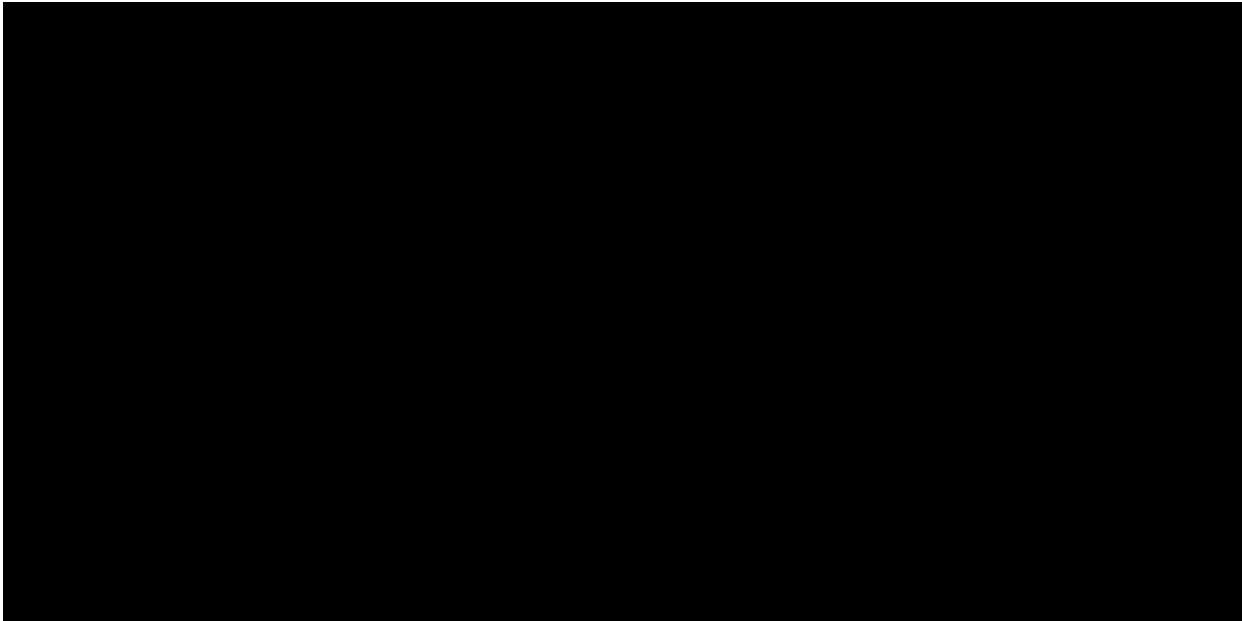
COMPRESSION
PROBLEM?





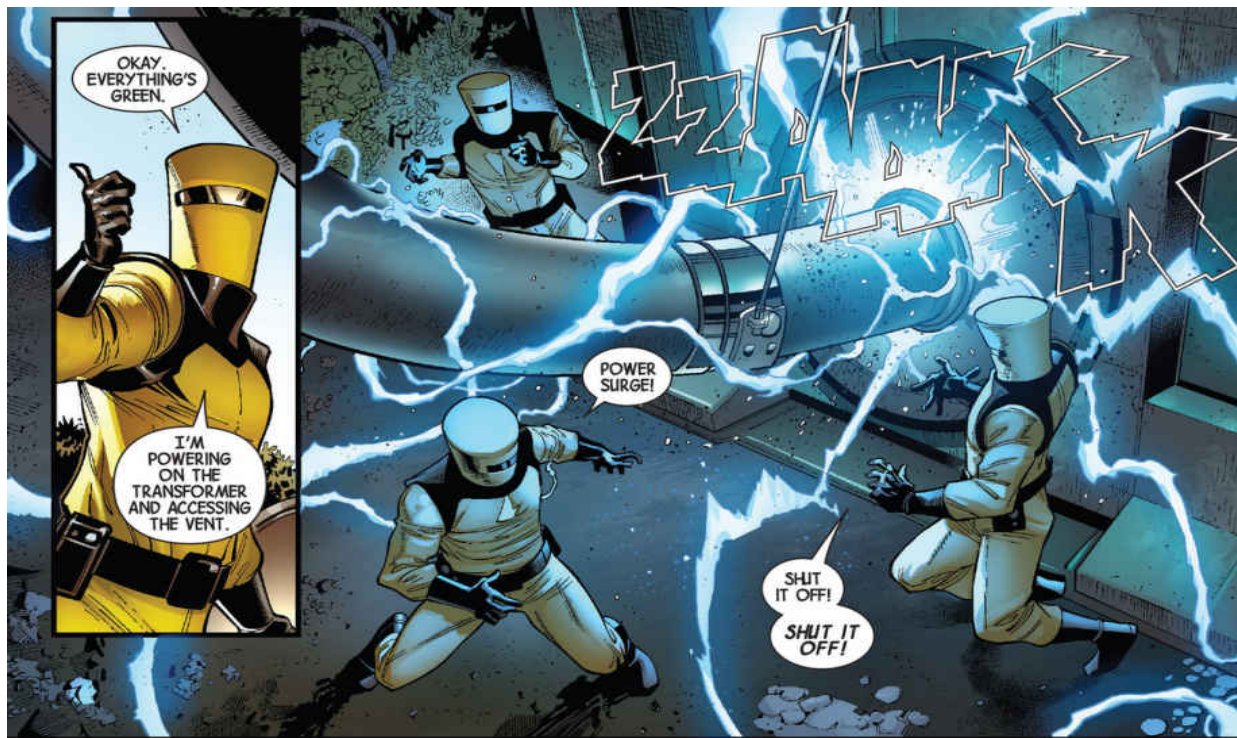


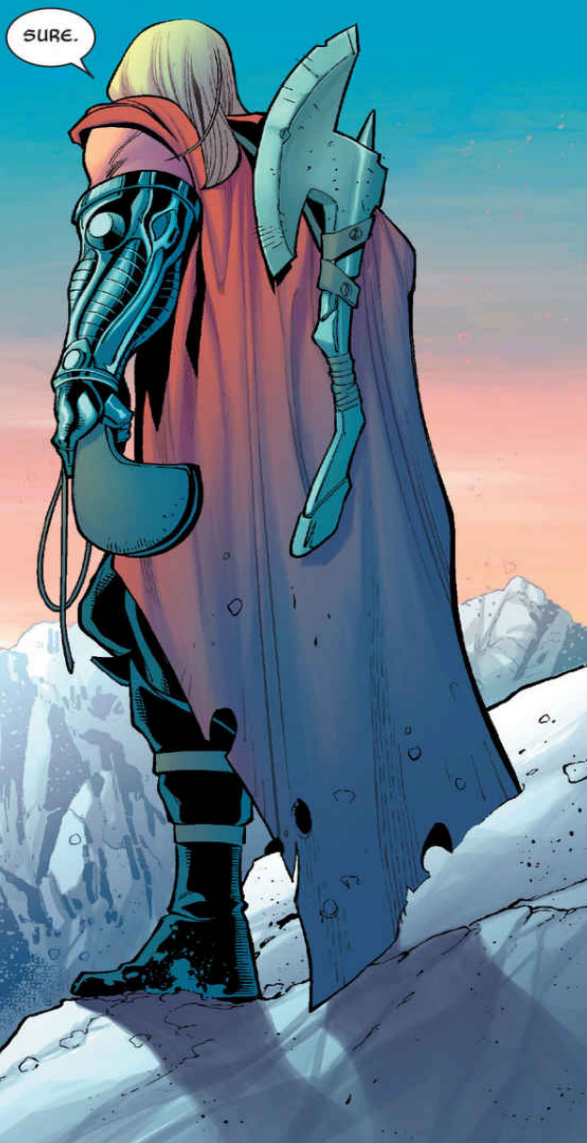
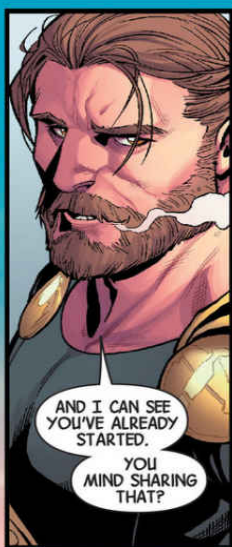




THE SAVAGE LAND.









RIGHT NOW,
THE PLAN IS JUST
FOR YOU AND I TO GO
THROUGH. THERE WAS
TALK OF *POD* COMING
AS WELL...

BUT I DON'T
WANT THAT
RESPONSIBILITY ON
MY SHOULDERS. NOT
WITH WHAT WE'RE
BEING ASKED
TO DO.

AGREED.

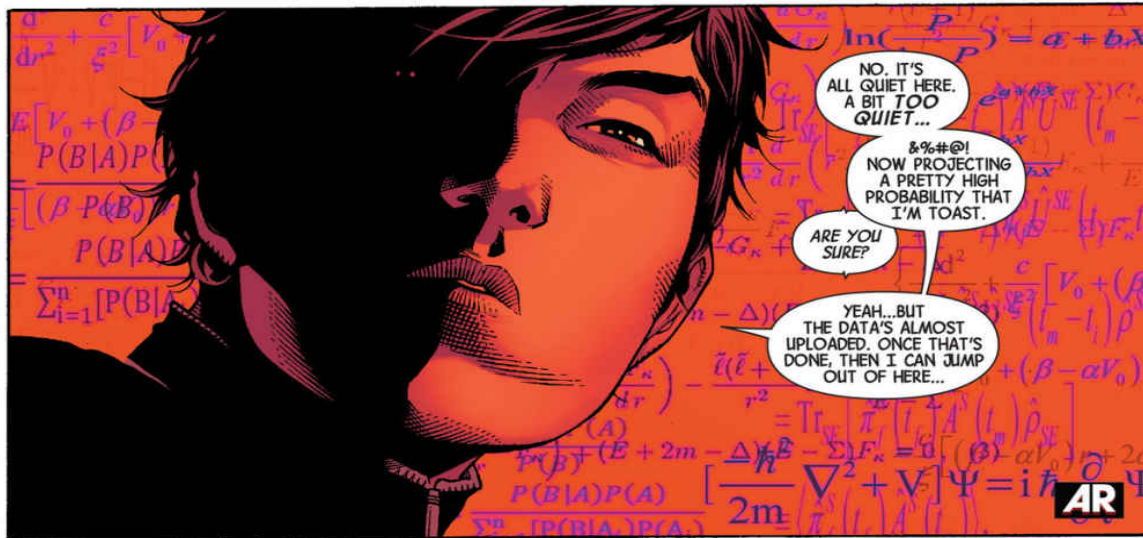
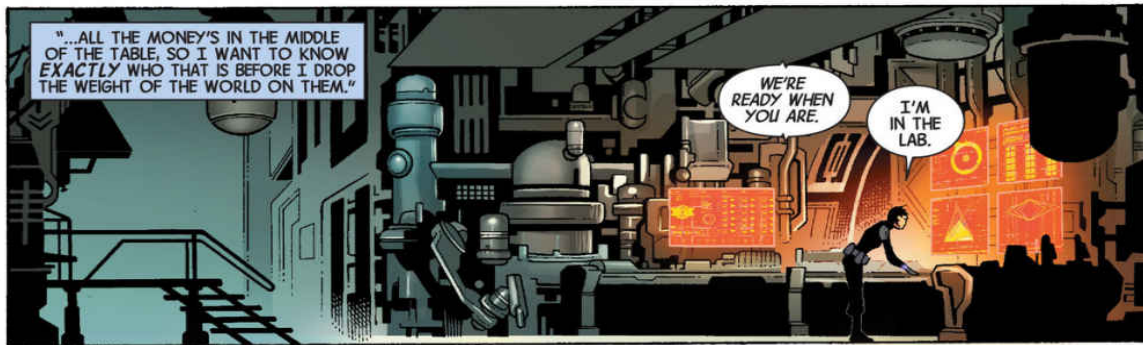
SO RIGHT NOW,
IT LOOKS LIKE JUST YOU
AND ME...INTO THE BREACH
AND BEYOND. I THINK
IT'S FITTING.

AS WE'VE
BOTH BEEN TESTED
AND, AT TIMES, BEEN
FOUND WANTING. YOU
HAVE SUFFERED. YOU
HAVE LOST. I
HAVE TOO.

BUT NOW,
BROTHER...

NOW
WE BOTH
RISE.









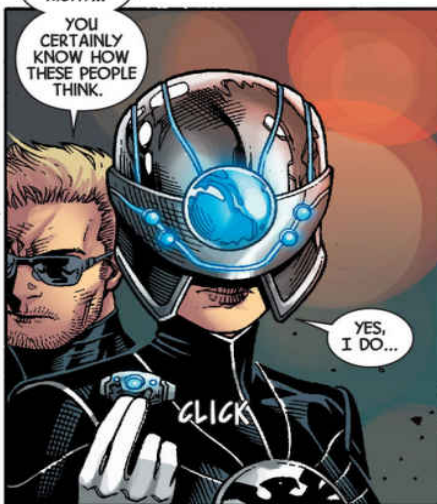














WHAT ABOUT BANNER? YOU KNOW, "DOC GREEN"?

NO COMMENT.



AND HANK PYM?



YOU KNOW WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE ALL OF YOU, RIGHT?



IF YOU HAD ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES I'VE HEARD THAT KIND OF EXCUSE...YOU WOULDN'T WASTE YOUR BREATH.

NOW, WHERE ARE BRIAN BRADDOCK AND STEPHEN STRANGE?



WHERE ARE THEY?

WHERE ARE HANK MCCOY, T'CHALLA AND BLACK BOLT?



I'M NOT TELLING YOU A DAMN THING.
NOTHING.

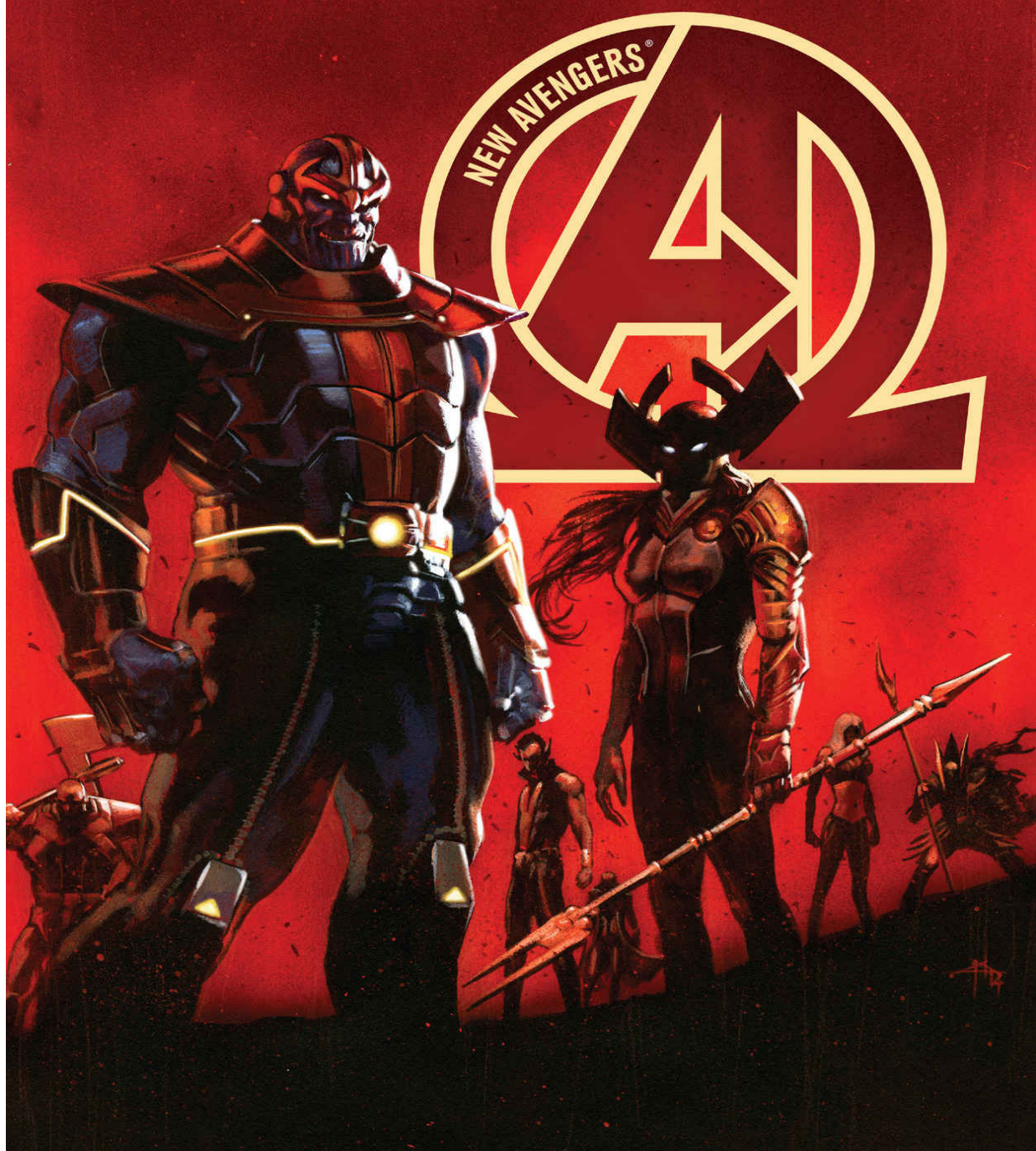
YES, YOU WILL. I PROMISE...
YOU WILL TALK.

WHERE ARE THE ILLUMINATI HIDING, CHO?



TO BE CONTINUED...

IN 8 MONTHS ... TIME RUNS OUT!



MARVEL

**HICKMAN
SCHITI
MARTIN
CURIEL**

024

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS



THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah



REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder



IRON MAN
Master of Machines



BEAST
Mutant Genius



DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead



HULK
Strongest There Is



BLACK PANTHER (SHURI)
Queen of Wakanda



DR. DOOM
Ruler of Latveria



KRISTOFF VERNARD
Doom's Heir



THE HATUT ZERAZE
Wakandan Strike Force



THE DORA MILAJE
Wakandan Royal Bodyguards

THE CABAL



NAMOR
Imperius Rex



MAXIMUS
Inhuman Madman



BLACK SWAN
Incursion Survivor



TERRAX
The Truly Enlightened



THANOS
The Mad Titan



PROXIMA MIDNIGHT
Servant of Thanos



CORVUS GLAIVE
Destroyer of Worlds



“THE CABAL”

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **VALERIO SCHITI**

COLOR ARTISTS: **FRANK MARTIN & DAVID CUIEL**

LETTERER: **VC's JOE CARAMAGNA**

COVER ART: **GABRIELE DELL'OTTO**

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EIGHT MONTHS LATER

LATVERIA.



YOU'VE
BARELY TOUCHED
YOUR DINNER,
PRINCE NAMOR.
IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?



NO,
KRISTOFF.
EVERYTHING IS...
PERFECT.

OF COURSE,
ONE WOULD
EXPECT NOTHING
LESS FROM
CASTLE DOOM.

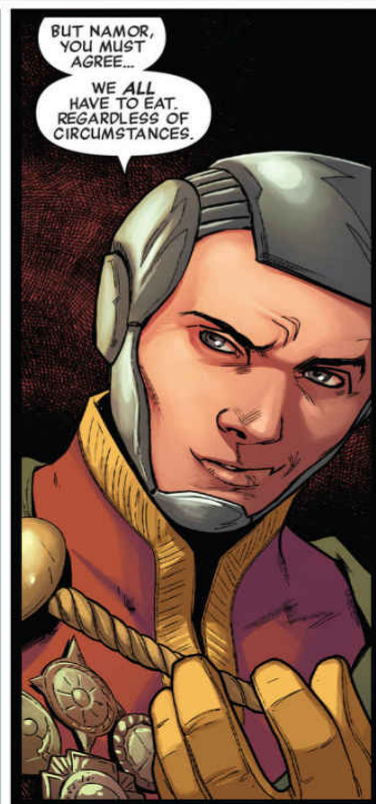
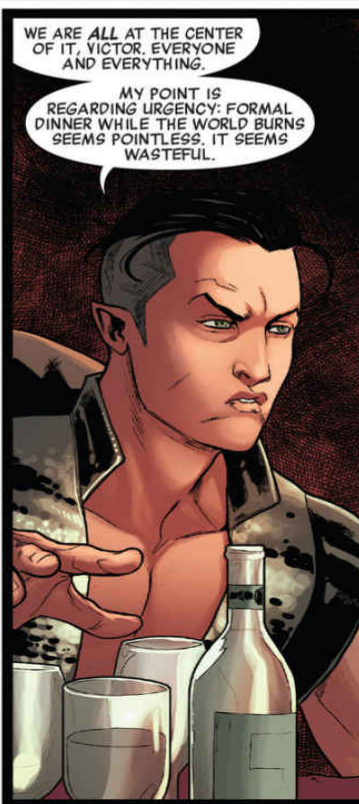
NO
APPETITE
THEN?

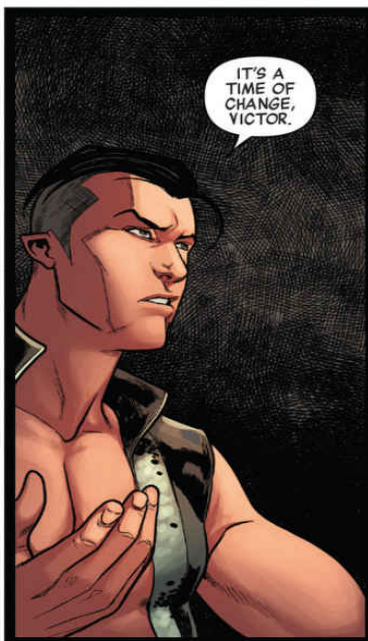
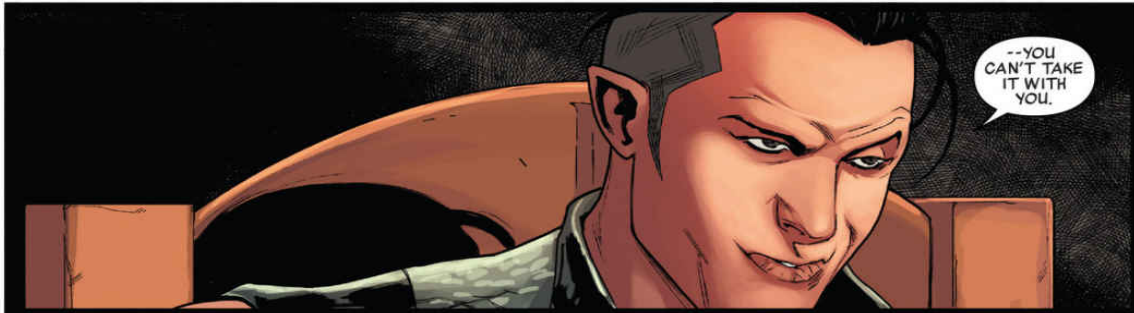


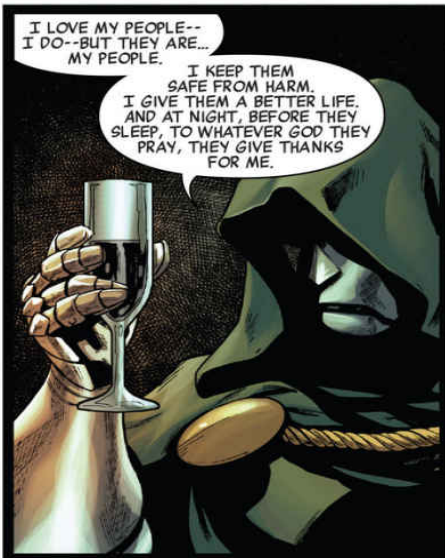
MORE OF AN *EVOLVING*
PALATE. IT SEEMS I NO
LONGER CRAVE THE FULL-
BODIED TRAPPINGS OF THE
WELL-HEELED.

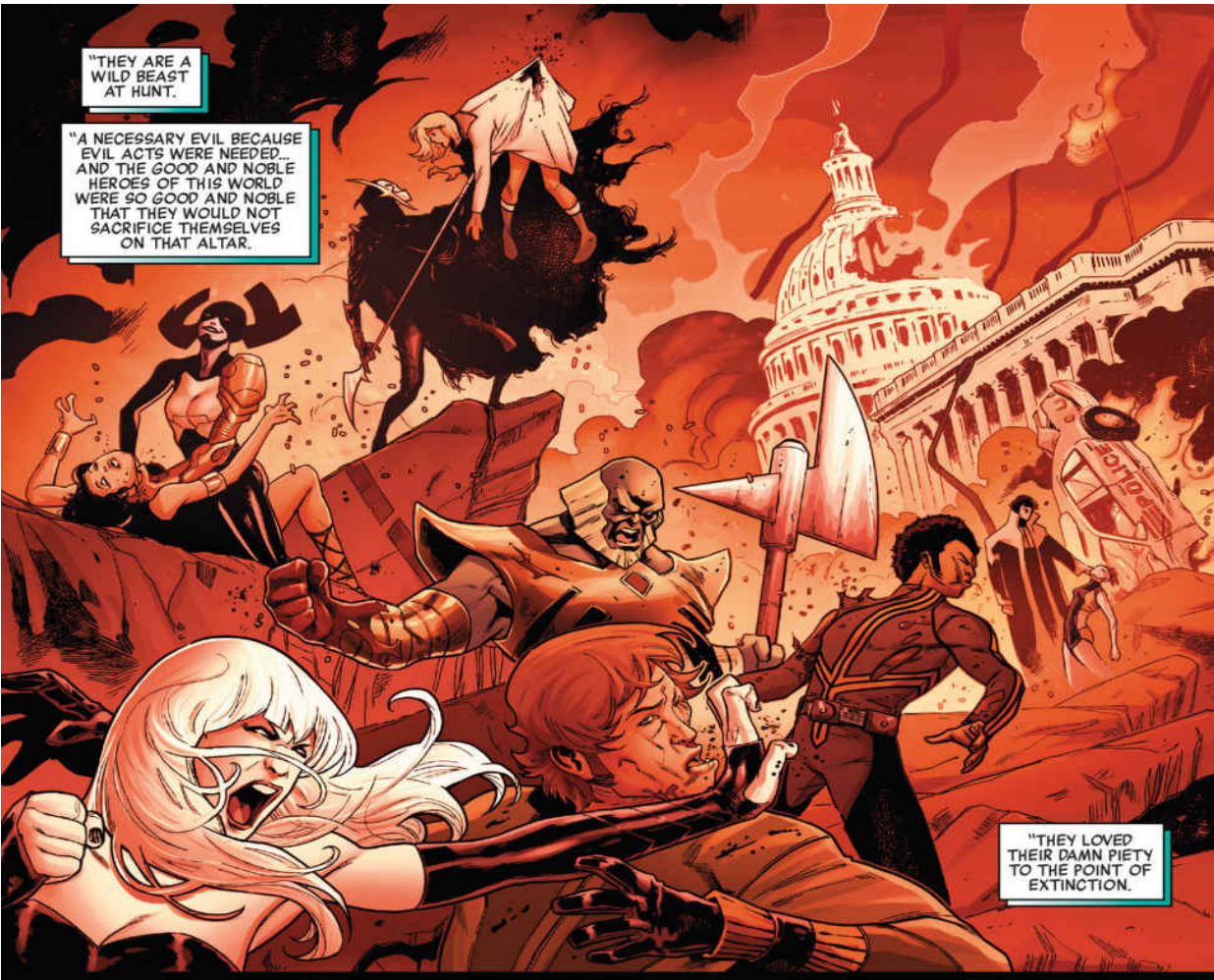
THESE DAYS, SUCH SPOIL
SEEMS INCREASINGLY
DECADENT.

DON'T
YOU
THINK?









"THEY ARE A
WILD BEAST
AT HUNT.

"A NECESSARY EVIL BECAUSE
EVIL ACTS WERE NEEDED...
AND THE GOOD AND NOBLE
HEROES OF THIS WORLD
WERE SO GOOD AND NOBLE
THAT THEY WOULD NOT
SACRIFICE THEMSELVES
ON THAT ALTAR.

"THEY LOVED
THEIR DAMN PIETY
TO THE POINT OF
EXTINCTION.

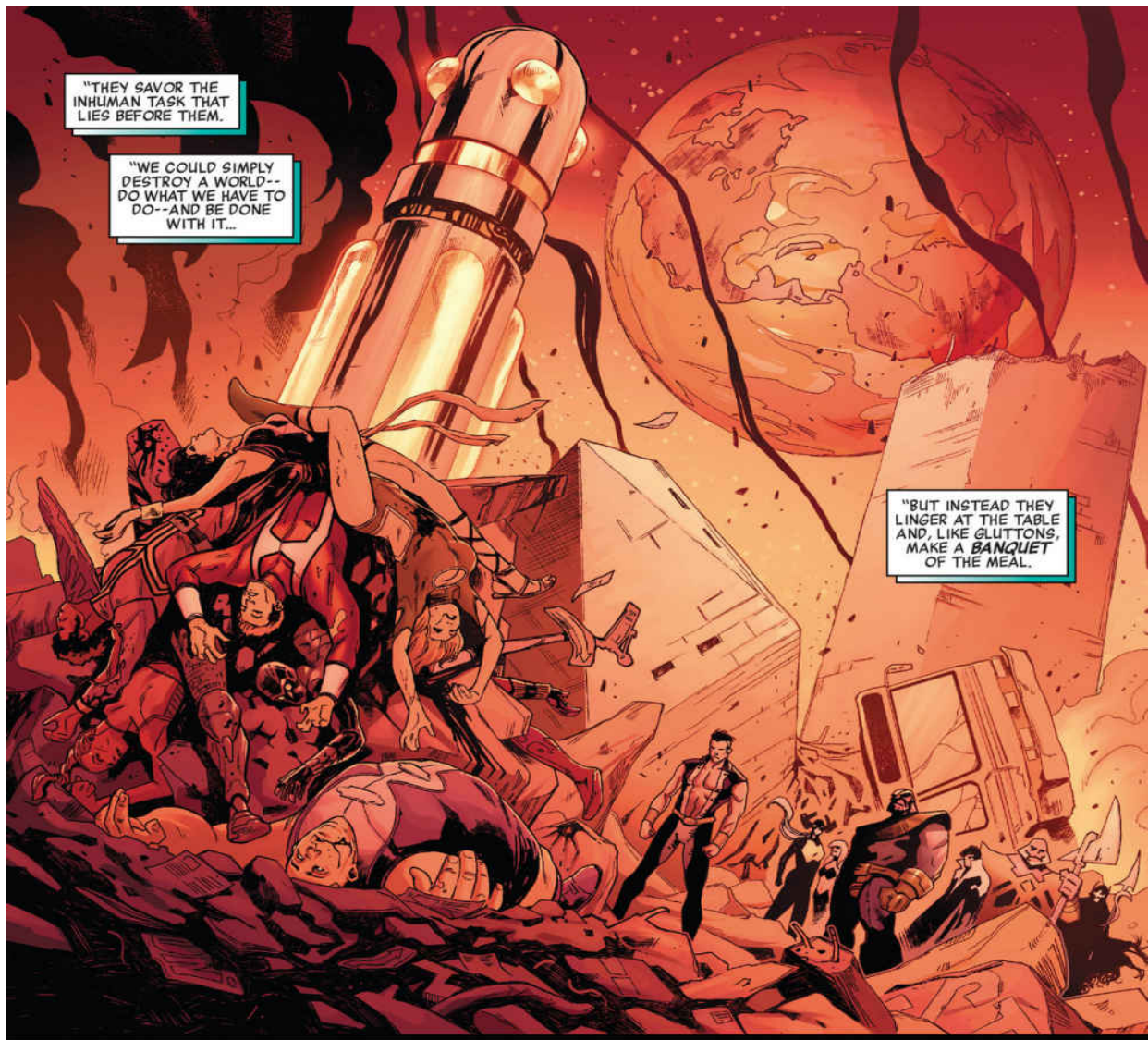


"BUT THE
CABAL...

"IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS
WE HAVE DESTROYED EARTH
AFTER EARTH AND SAVED
SCORES OF UNIVERSES."



BUT
VICTOR...
THEY
HAVE LEARNED
TO RELISH THE
ATROCITY.



"THEY SAVOR THE INHUMAN TASK THAT LIES BEFORE THEM."

"WE COULD SIMPLY DESTROY A WORLD--DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO--AND BE DONE WITH IT..."

"BUT INSTEAD THEY LINGER AT THE TABLE AND, LIKE GLUTTONS, MAKE A BANQUET OF THE MEAL."



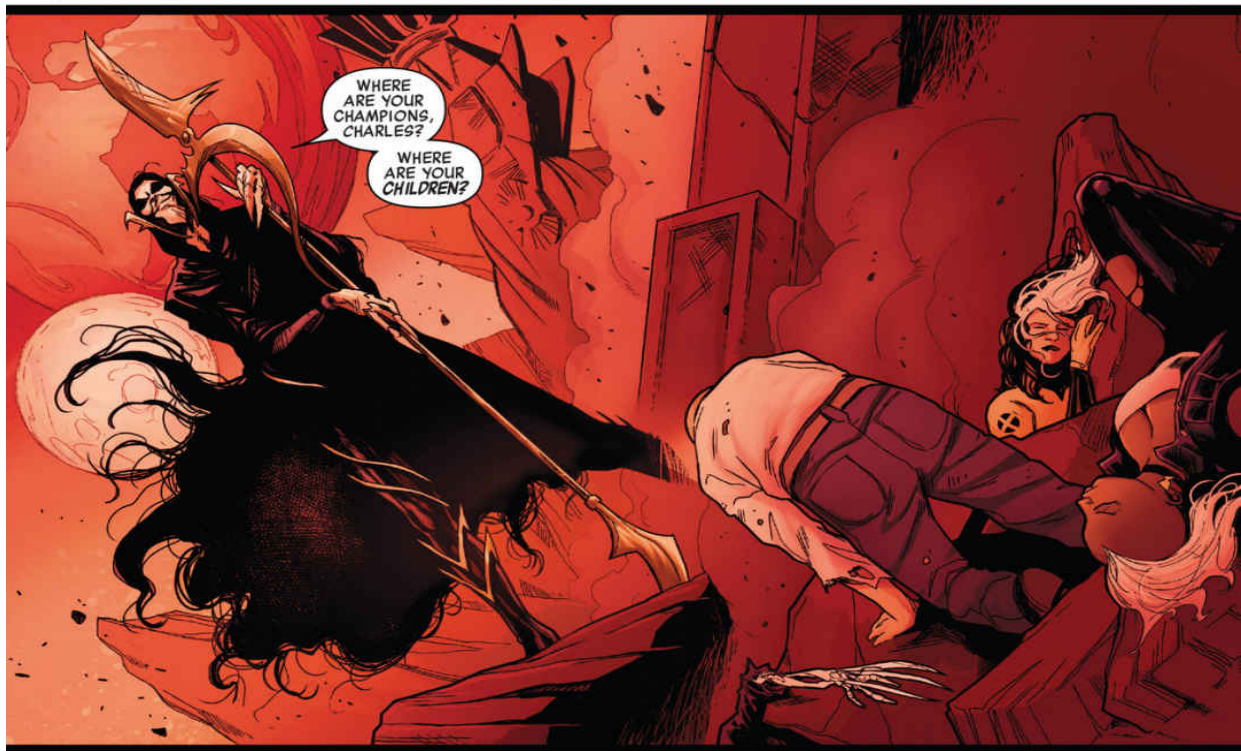
"THEY GROW IN SUCH ACTS WHILE I AM DIMINISHED--THE HORROR OF IT ALL HAS BECOME OVERWHELMING..."

"AND THEY ARE BEGINNING TO SENSE MY HESITATION."











I KNOW.



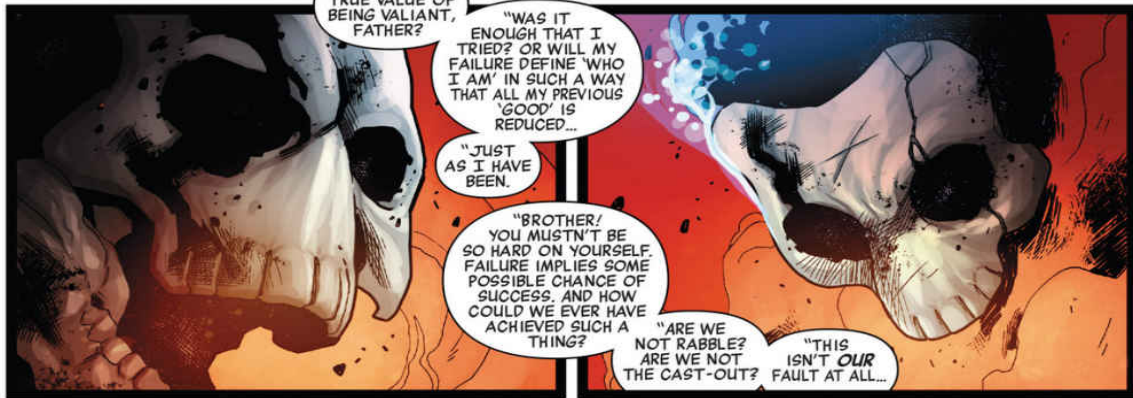
I KNOW...BECAUSE WHEN WE ARRIVED ON THIS BROKEN, BACKWARDS EARTH, YOU SENT THEM AND THE REST OF YOUR X-MEN TO STOP US...

TO STOP ALL THIS.

WELL... I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU...



A FINAL WORD FROM YOUR CHAMPIONS.



"WHAT IS THE TRUE VALUE OF BEING VALIANT, FATHER?"

"WAS IT ENOUGH THAT I TRIED? OR WILL MY FAILURE DEFINE 'WHO I AM' IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL MY PREVIOUS 'GOOD' IS REDUCED..."

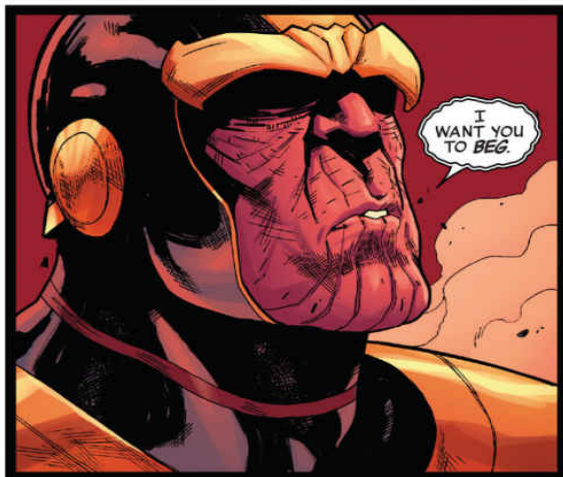
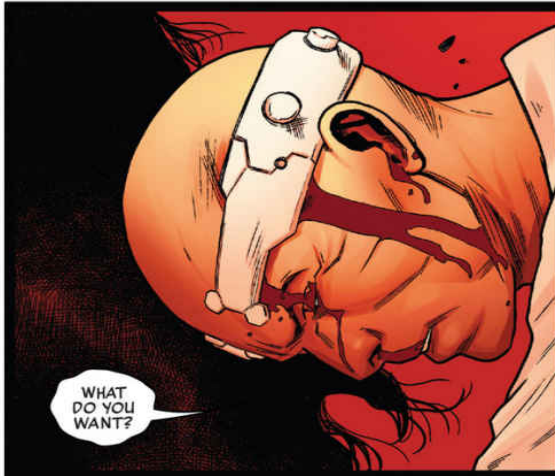
"JUST AS I HAVE BEEN."

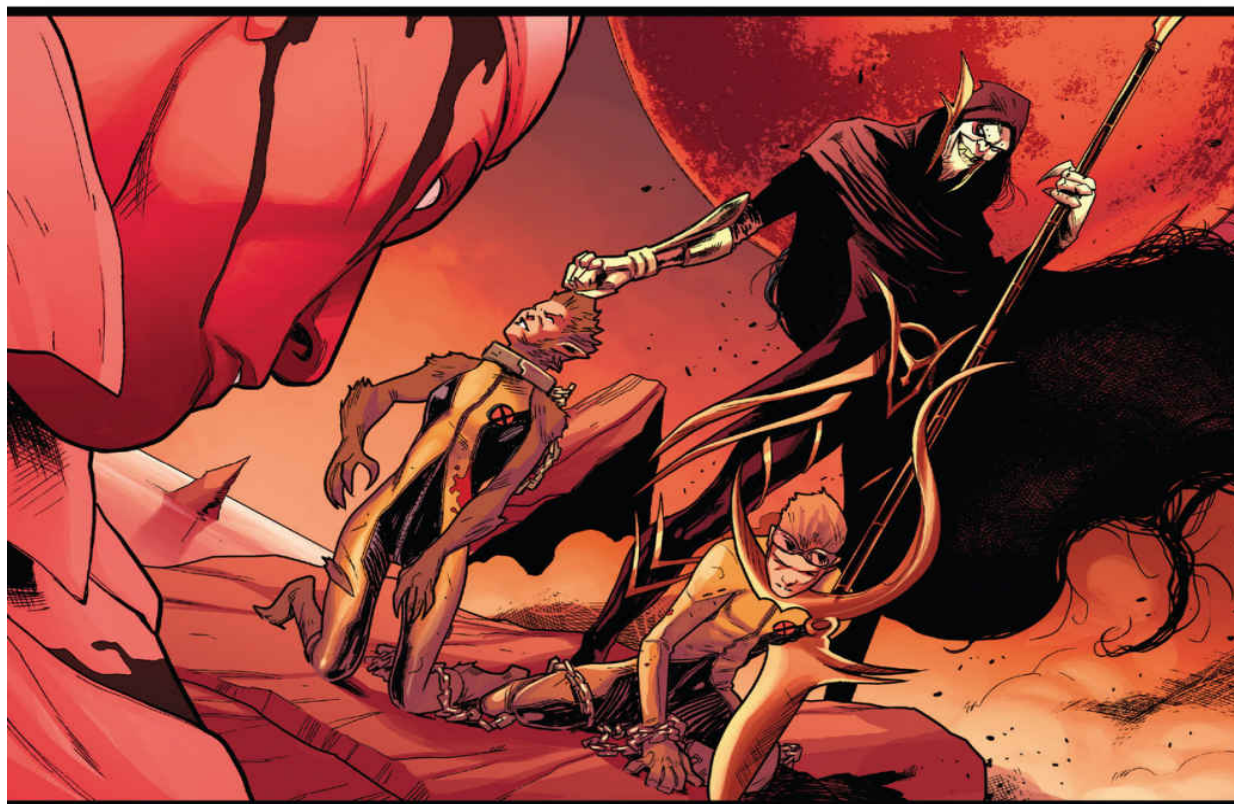
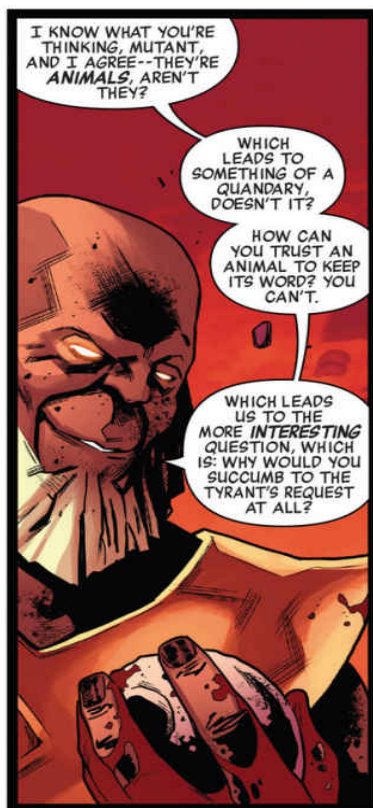
"BROTHER! YOU MUSTN'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF. FAILURE IMPLIES SOME POSSIBLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. AND HOW COULD WE EVER HAVE ACHIEVED SUCH A THING?"

"ARE WE NOT RABBLE? ARE WE NOT THE CAST-OUT?"

"THIS ISN'T OUR FAULT AT ALL..."





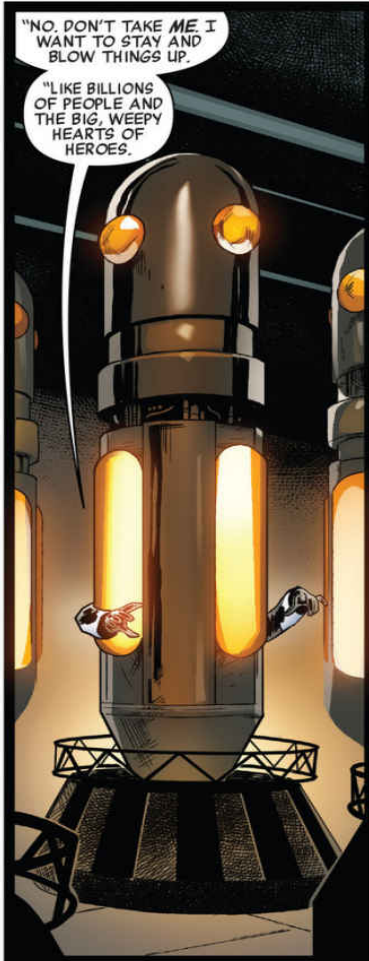




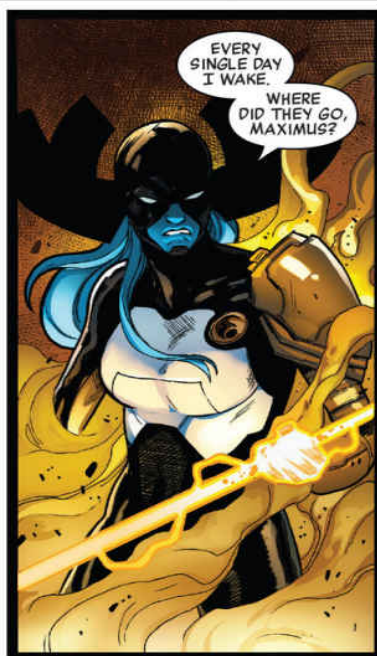




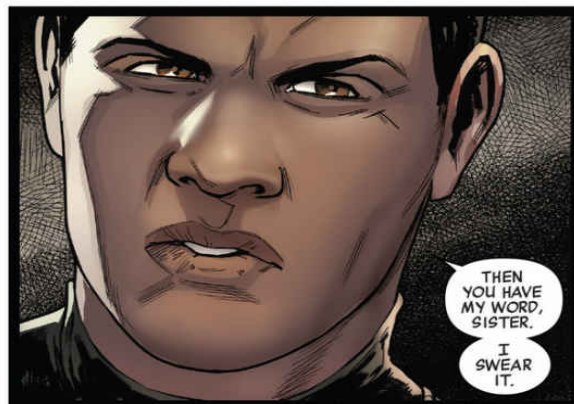
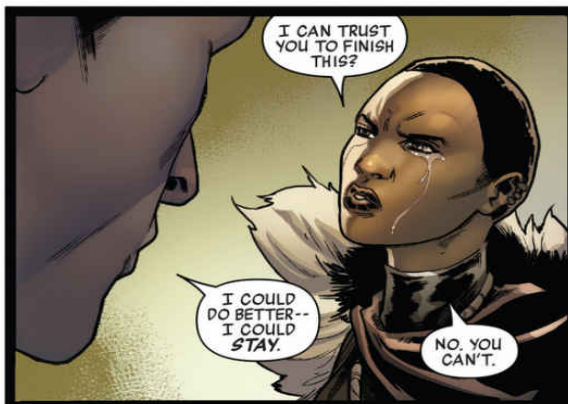
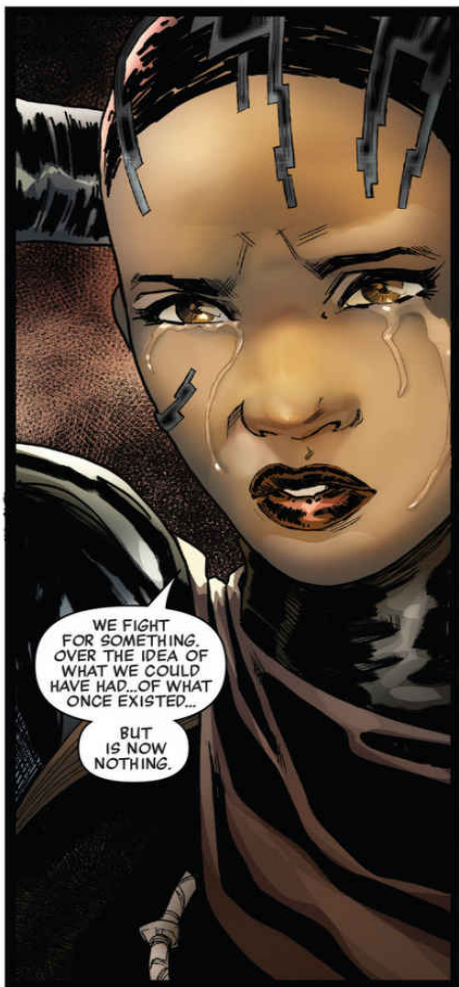




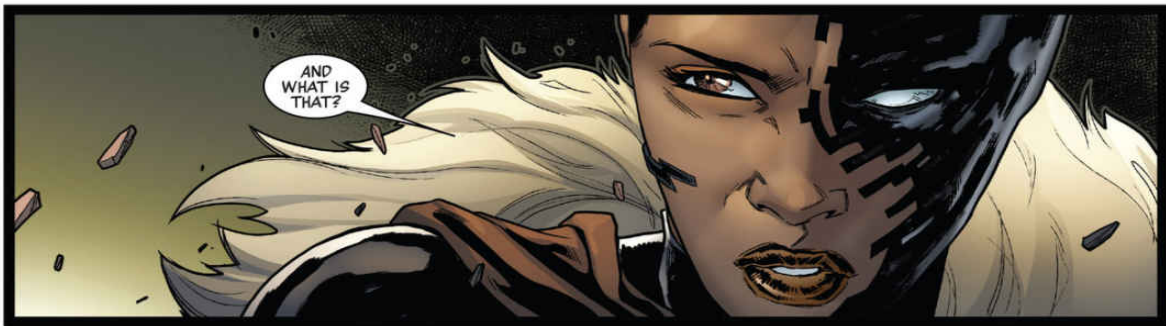


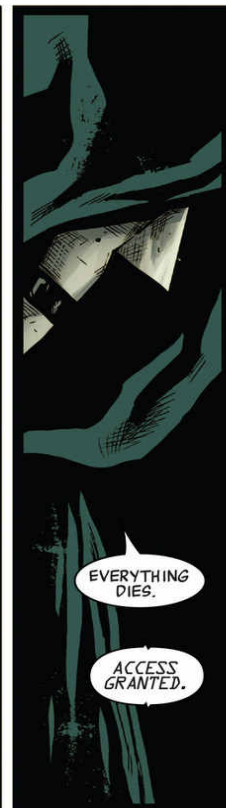
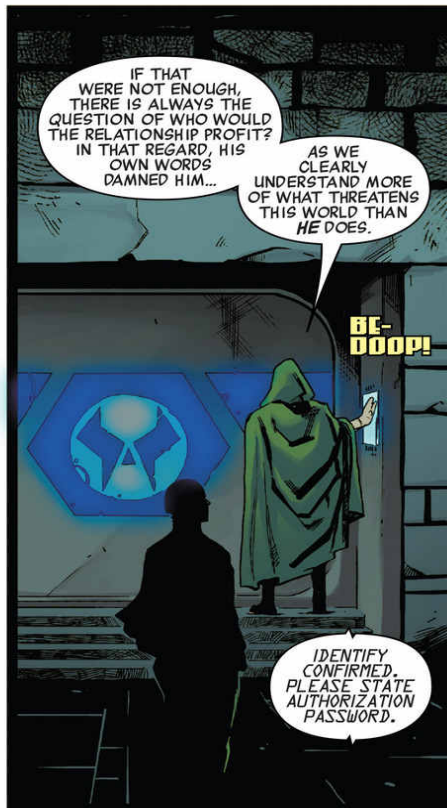
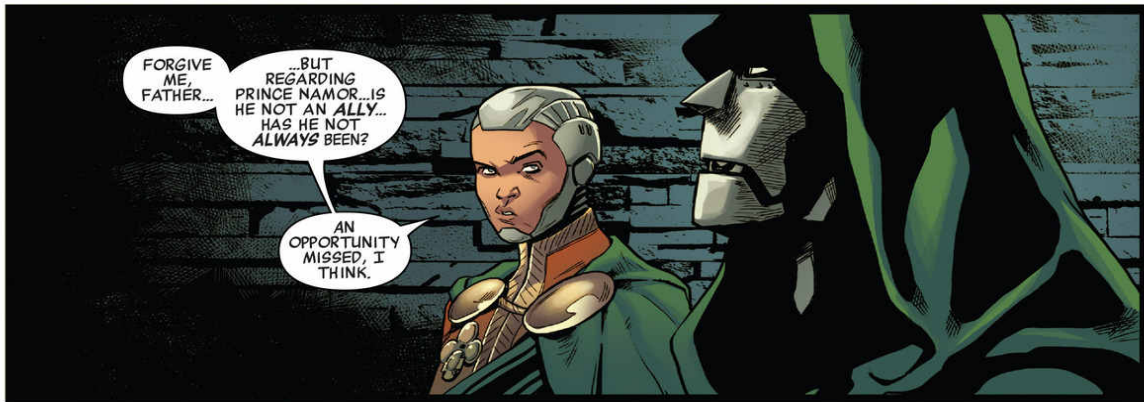


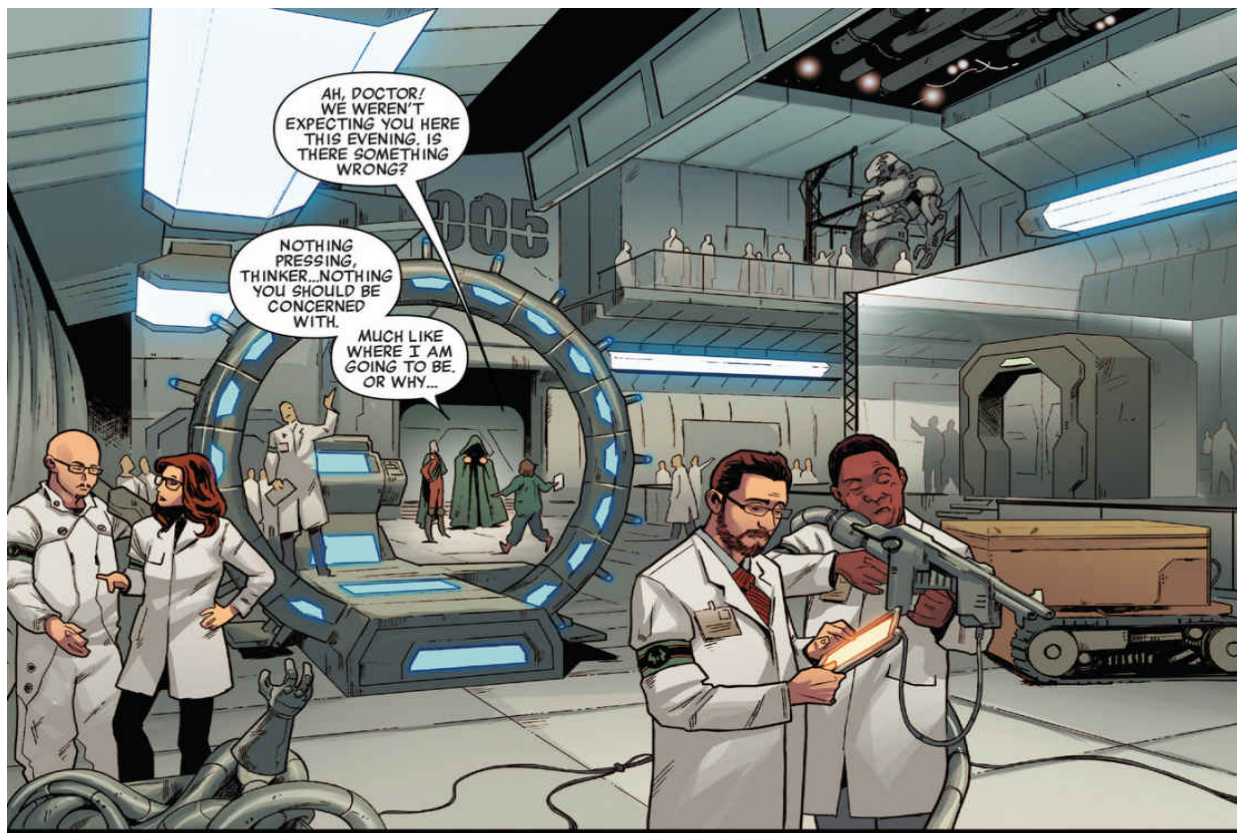


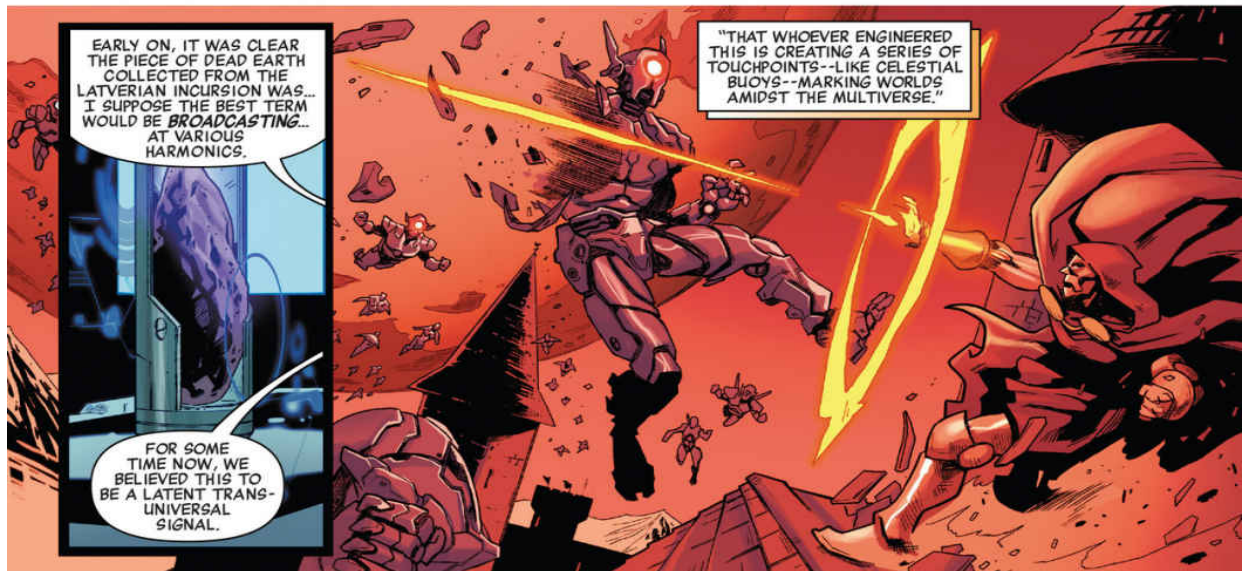
















I HAVE
ALL THE PIECES
NECESSARY TO
BRING IT TO
PASS...

...THANKS
TO THE
MOLECULE
MAN!

LET THERE
BE SUFFERING
AND WOE TO ALL
WHO STAND IN
MY WAY.



IN 7 MONTHS ... TIME RUNS OUT!

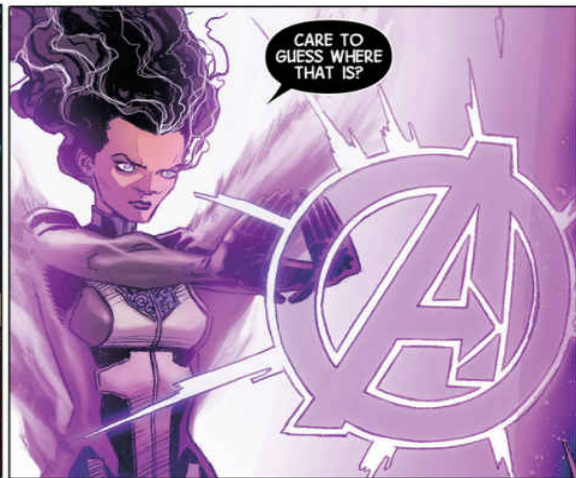


MARVEL

**HICKMAN
CASELLI
MARTIN**

**036
AR**

EIGHT MONTHS LATER





“UNIVERSAL AVENGERS”

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **STEFANO CASELLI**

COLOR ARTIST: **FRANK MARTIN**

LETTERER: **VC's CORY PETIT**

COVER ART: **STUART IMMONEN, WADE VON GRAWBADGER & MARTE GRACIA**

VARIANT COVER ART: **SEAN CHEN, MARK MORALES & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR; ALEX KROPINAK; BOBBY RUBIO**

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IRON MAN

STEVE ROGERS

EX NIHILO

HULK

CAPTAIN AMERICA

HAWKEYE

ODINSON

AVENGERS

CAPTAIN MARVEL

HYPERION

NIGHTMASK

MANIFOLD

SPIDER-WOMAN

ABYSS

SMASHER

CAPTAIN UNIVERSE

BLACK WIDOW

STARBRAND

CANNONBALL

SUNSPOT

SHANG-CHI

IOWA.
THE KANE FARM.

"YOU SEE ALL KINDS OF THINGS IN THIS WORLD-- EVENTUALLY, YOU THINK YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL."

"BUT THEN SOMETHING NEW COMES YOUR WAY, AND SUDDENLY, THERE'S THAT THING YOU THOUGHT WAS LOST FOREVER: WONDER."

NOW LOOK AT YOU, LITTLE MAN...AREN'T YOU A WONDER?

YOU DID GOOD, IZZY.

GOOD GENES, DAD.

SPEAKING OF: GRANDPA... WHERE'S--

THE GROVE. THE SMALLER ONE IN THE FAR FIELD. YOU REMEMBER WHICH ONE I'M TALKING ABOUT?

YEAH.

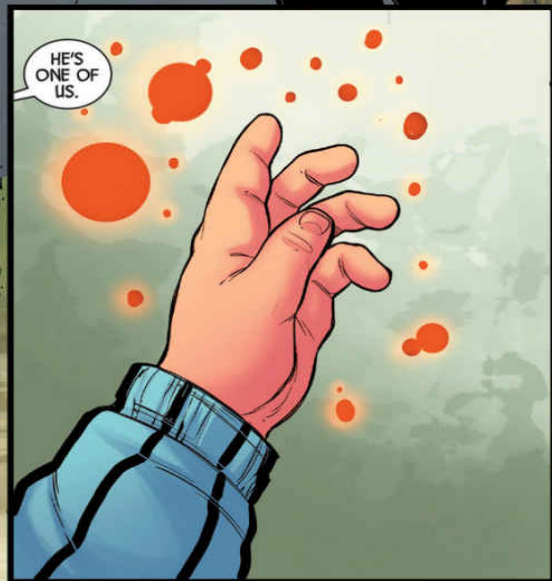
MANIFOLD, HAVE WE GOT TIME?

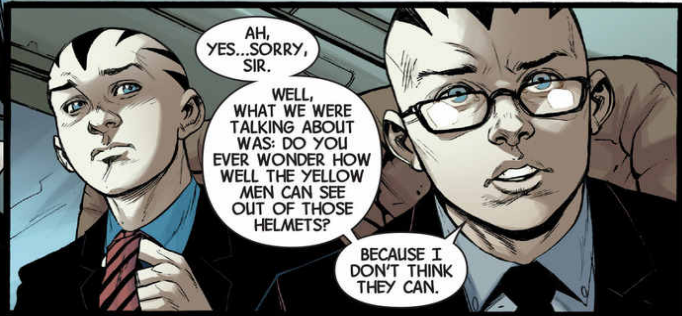
UH-HUH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SAM. I'LL GET US BACK WHERE WE NEED TO BE.

YOU GUYS GO DO YOUR THING.

OKAY, KIDDO, TIME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL.













LATER.

IT'S HOLDING!

WE CAN MAINTAIN THIS CURRENT LEVEL INDEFINITELY. WE'RE STABLE AND READY TO PUSH POWER TO THE AUGER.

ACTIVATING THE MACHINE.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK?

ALL CURRENT MODELS PROJECT THAT THE COLLAPSING MULTIVERSE CONTAINS SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND REMAINING UNIVERSES.

AT THESE REDUCED LEVELS-- AND FROM OUR POSITION ON A FAR END OF THE UNIVERSAL SPECTRUM-- WE'LL BE ABLE TO INJECT/PROJECT THE TEAM HALFWAY ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE.

THAT FAR? DOES THAT MEAN...

YES.

IT DOES.

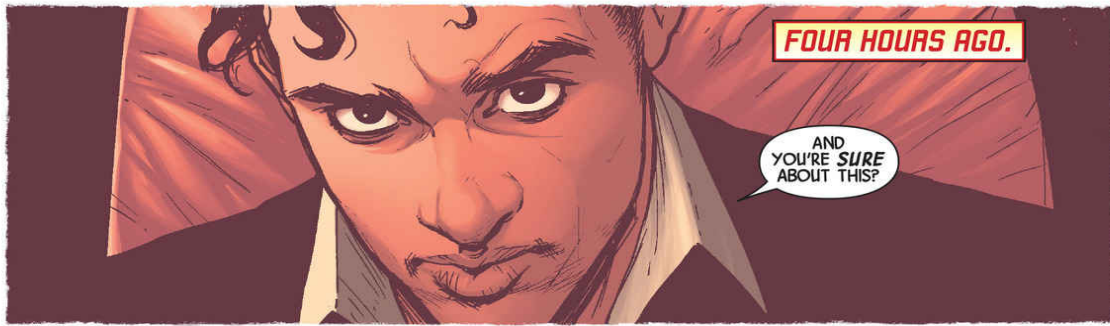
WELL...THAT'S HOW IT HAS TO BE, ISN'T IT?

RESPECTFULLY... WE HAVE MORE TO LOSE THAN YOU DO, SIR...SO I DON'T KNOW THAT IT IS.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, MY STRIPED FRIEND.

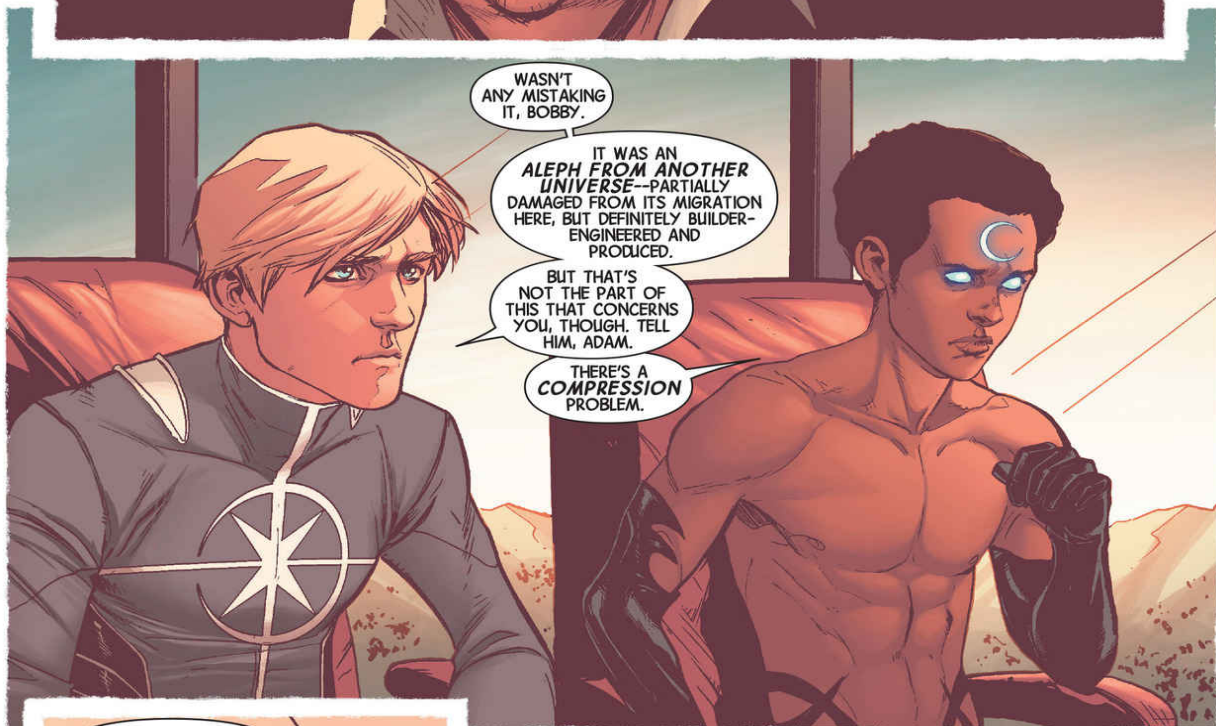
WE'RE ALL EQUAL- OPPORTUNITY RISK TAKERS NOW.





FOUR HOURS AGO.

AND
YOU'RE *SURE*
ABOUT THIS?



WASN'T
ANY MISTAKING
IT, BOBBY.

IT WAS AN
**ALEPH FROM ANOTHER
UNIVERSE**--PARTIALLY
DAMAGED FROM ITS MIGRATION
HERE, BUT DEFINITELY BUILDER-
ENGINEERED AND
PRODUCED.

BUT THAT'S
NOT THE PART OF
THIS THAT CONCERNS
YOU, THOUGH. TELL
HIM, ADAM.

THERE'S A
COMPRESSION
PROBLEM.

MANY THINGS
EXIST IN THE SPACE
BETWEEN UNIVERSES. NOT
IN RELATION TO THE FERTILE
GROUND OF "REAL SPACE"...
LIKE THIS UNIVERSE...

BUT IN
COMPARISON TO
HOW FEW SHOULD BE
ABLE TO EXIST IN
NO-SPACE. LIKE THE
ALEPH WE FOUND.

AS WE APPROACH
THE END OF EVERYTHING,
OVERFLOW AND OVERLAP
ARE GOING TO LEAD TO A
LESS...ORDERLY STATE
OF DECAY.

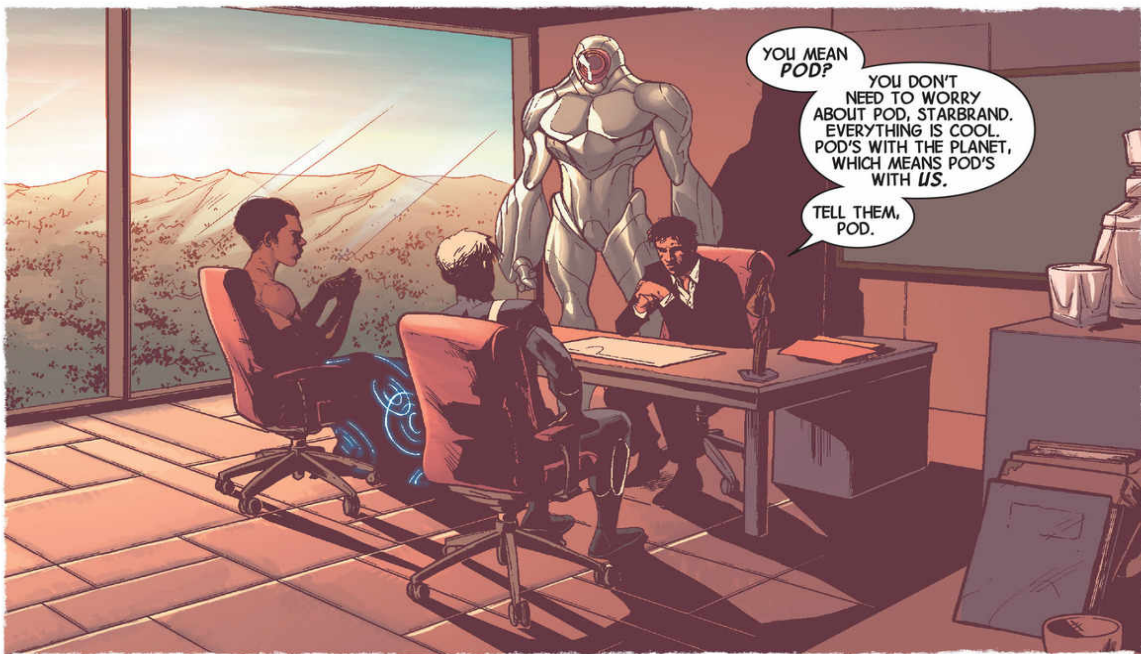
THIS IS A
PROBLEM.

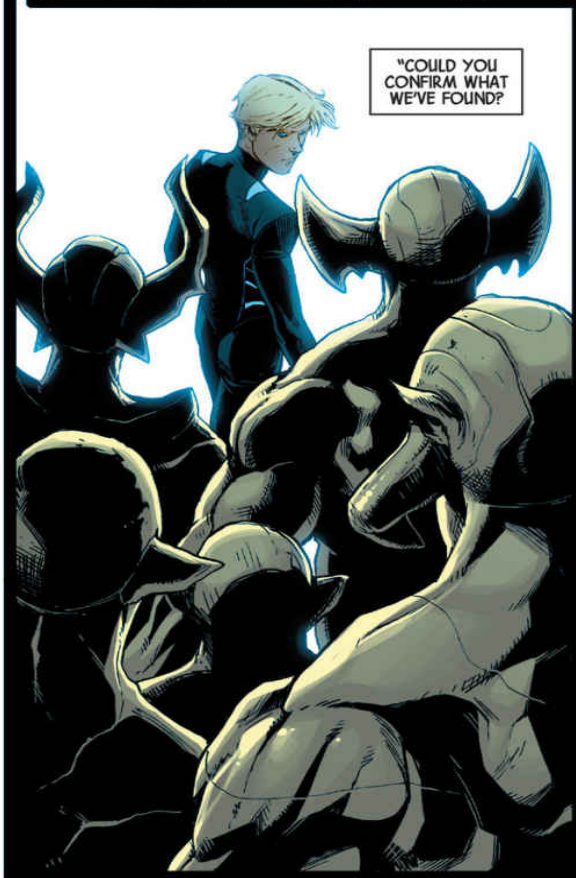
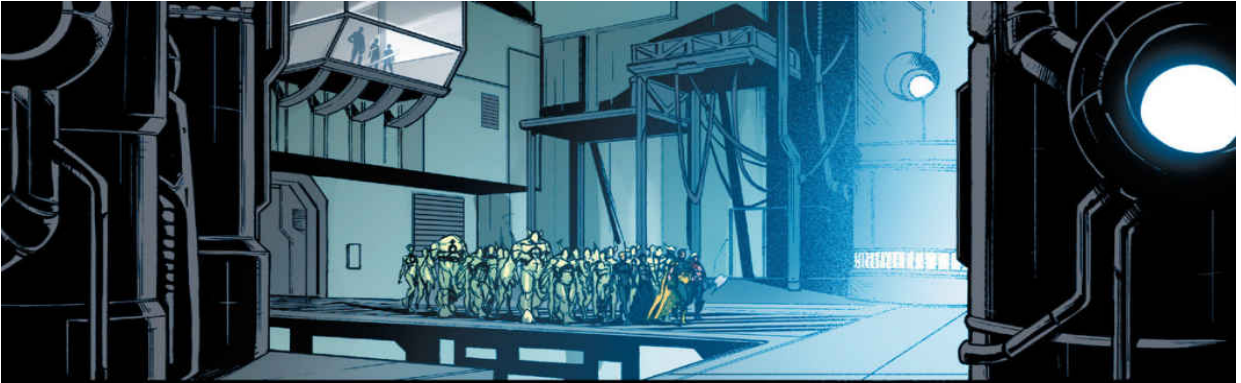
I'M SORRY,
GUYS...I DON'T
HAVE ANY IDEA
WHAT THAT
MEANS.

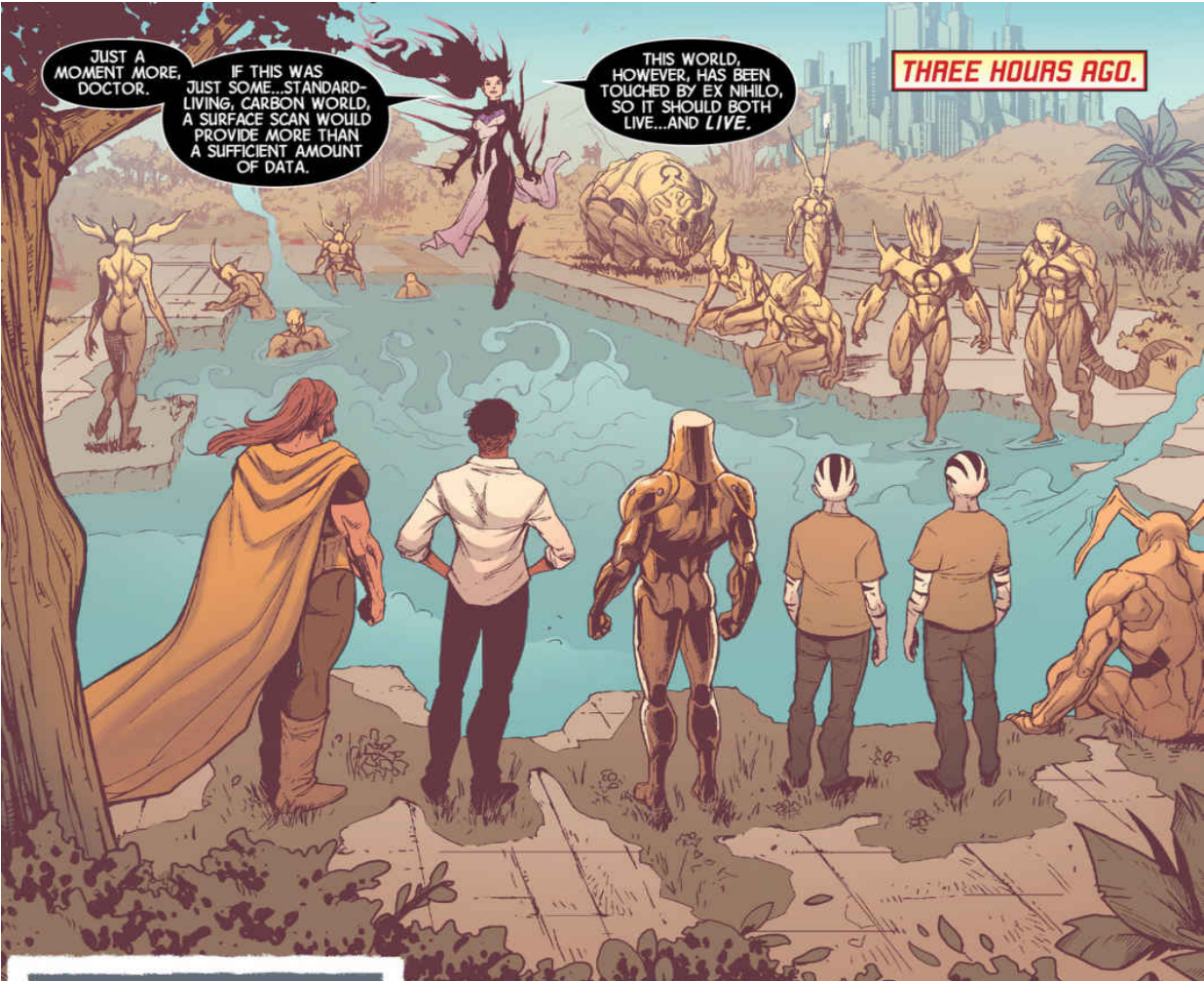
WE DON'T
THINK THE ALEPH
JUMPED HERE. WE
THINK IT WAS **PUSHED**
THROUGH BY THE
COLLAPSE OF
EVERYTHING.

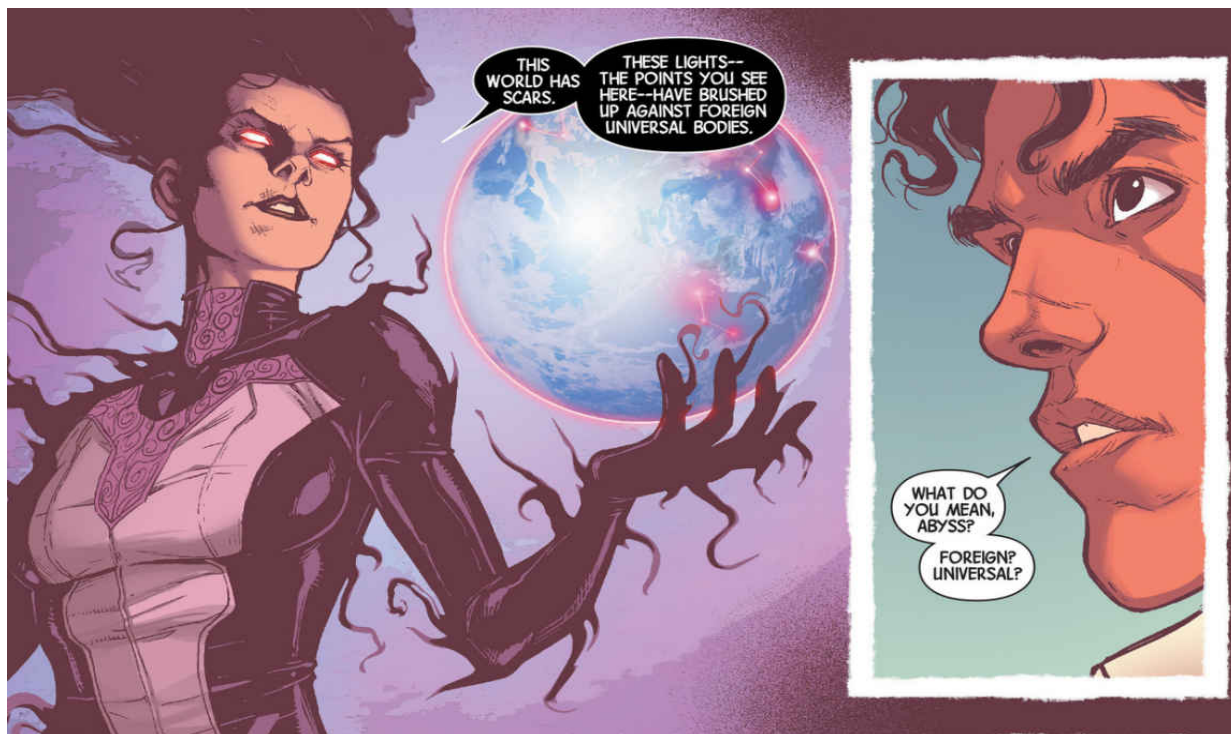
LIKE ADAM
SAID...THERE'S A
COMPRESSION
PROBLEM.

AND, NOT
FOR NOTHING...BUT
THAT THING BEHIND
YOU IS **FREAKING**
ME OUT.









THIS
WORLD HAS
SCARS.

THESE LIGHTS--
THE POINTS YOU SEE
HERE--HAVE BRUSHED
UP AGAINST FOREIGN
UNIVERSAL BODIES.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
ABYSS?

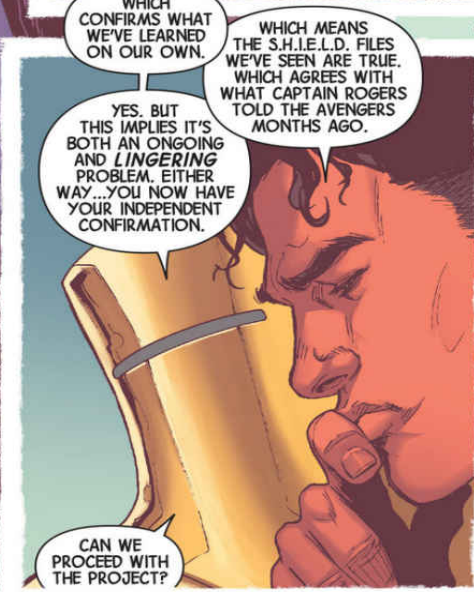
FOREIGN?
UNIVERSAL?



LIKE
HYPERION,
BUT NOT JUST
A PERSON.

AN ENTIRE
ECOSYSTEM.

YOU
MEAN A
WORLD.



WHICH
CONFIRMS WHAT
WE'VE LEARNED
ON OUR OWN.

WHICH MEANS
THE S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES
WE'VE SEEN ARE TRUE,
WHICH AGREES WITH
WHAT CAPTAIN ROGERS
TOLD THE AVENGERS
MONTHS AGO.

YES, BUT
THIS IMPLIES IT'S
BOTH AN ONGOING
AND *LINGERING*
PROBLEM. EITHER
WAY...YOU NOW HAVE
YOUR INDEPENDENT
CONFIRMATION.

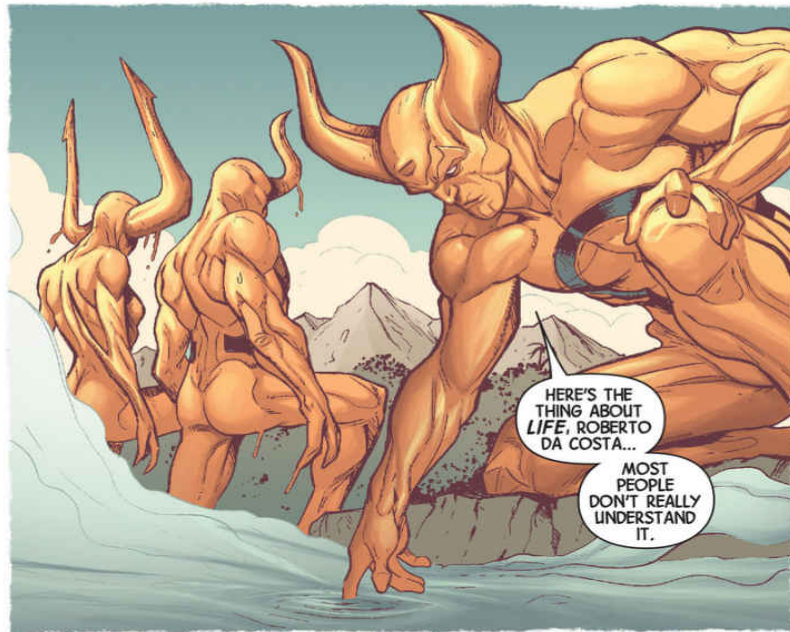
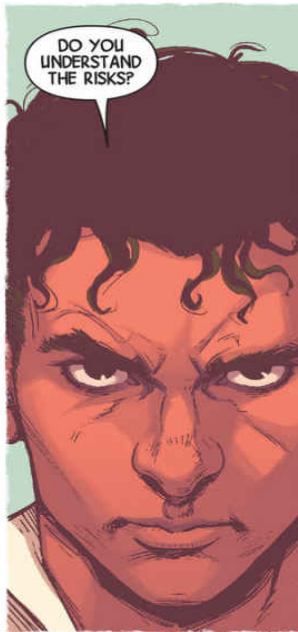
CAN WE
PROCEED WITH
THE PROJECT?

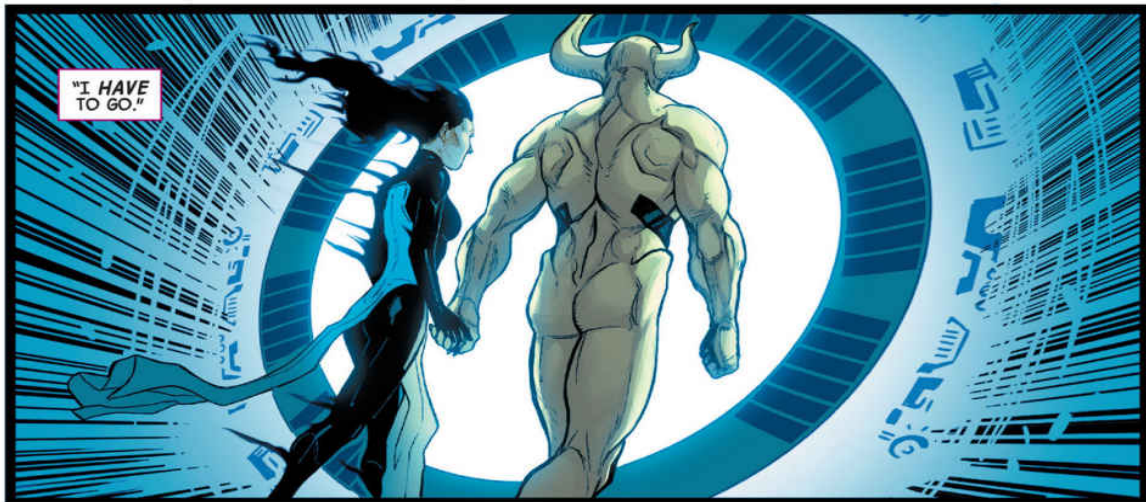


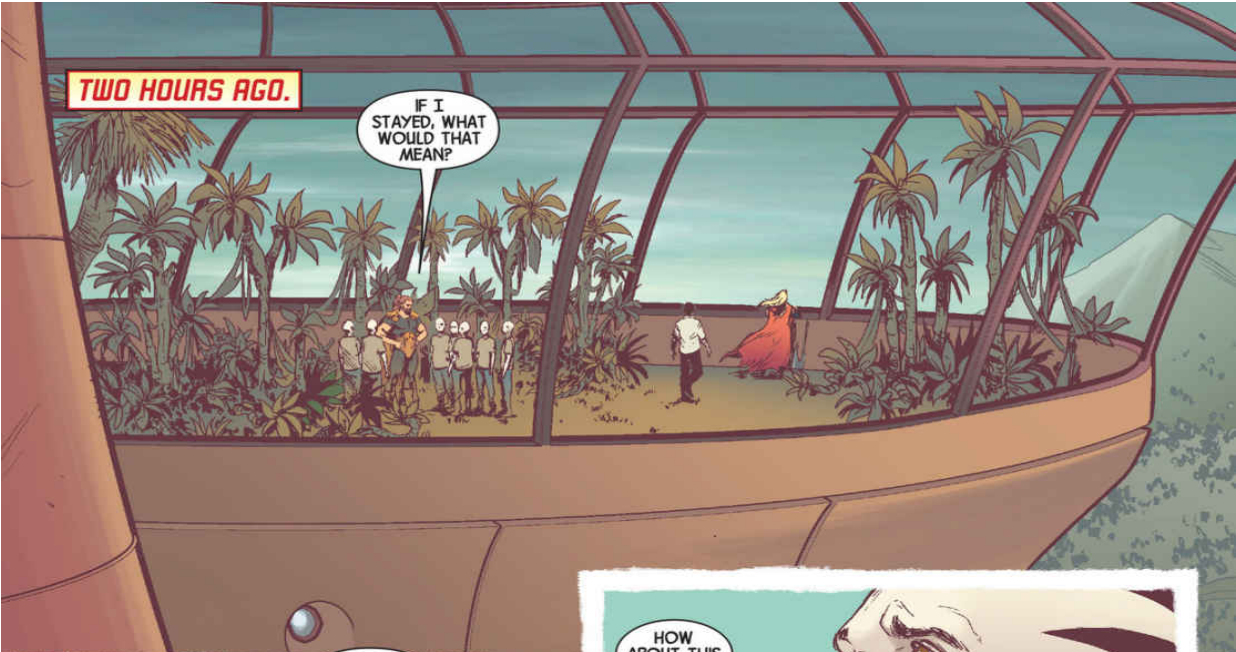
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

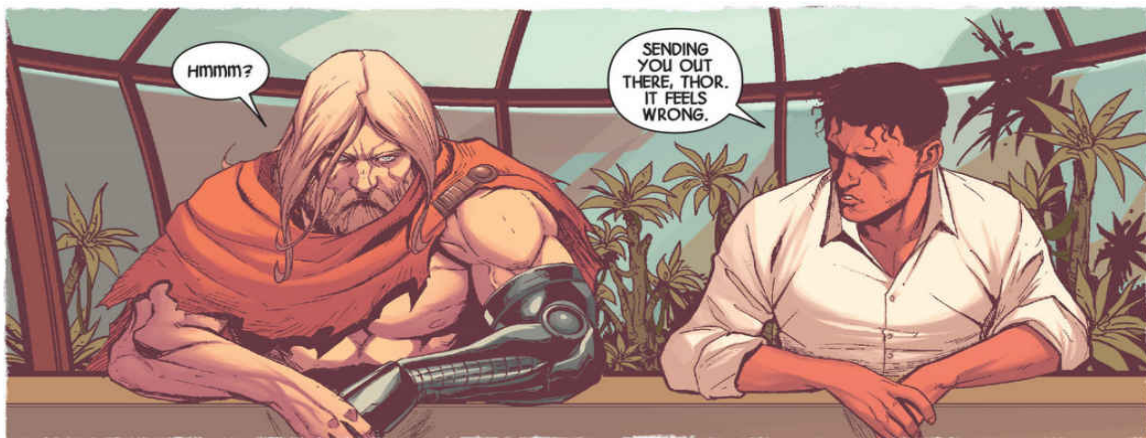
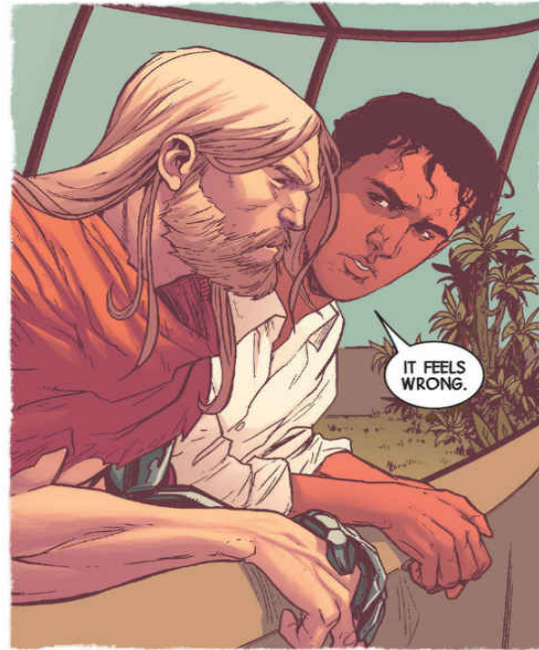
THE NEW
WORLD IS DEAD--
THE OLD WORLD IS
SURELY DYING.

YOU
SHOULD EXPAND
YOUR PLANS TO
INCLUDE US.



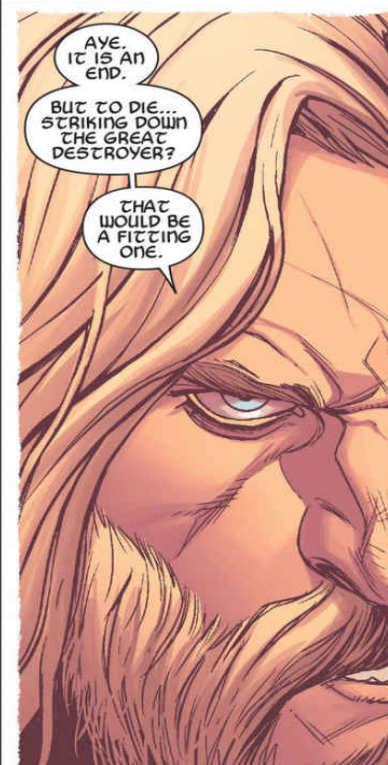
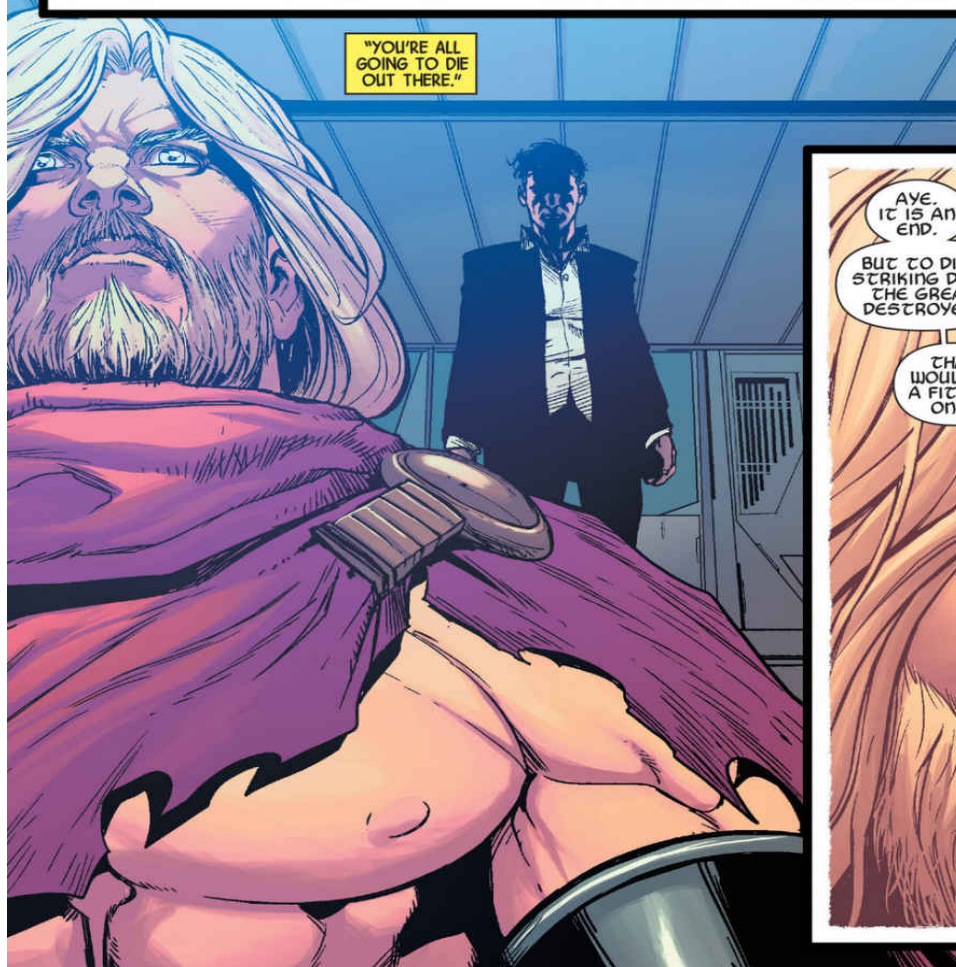






TENS OF THOUSANDS OF UNIVERSES AWAY.





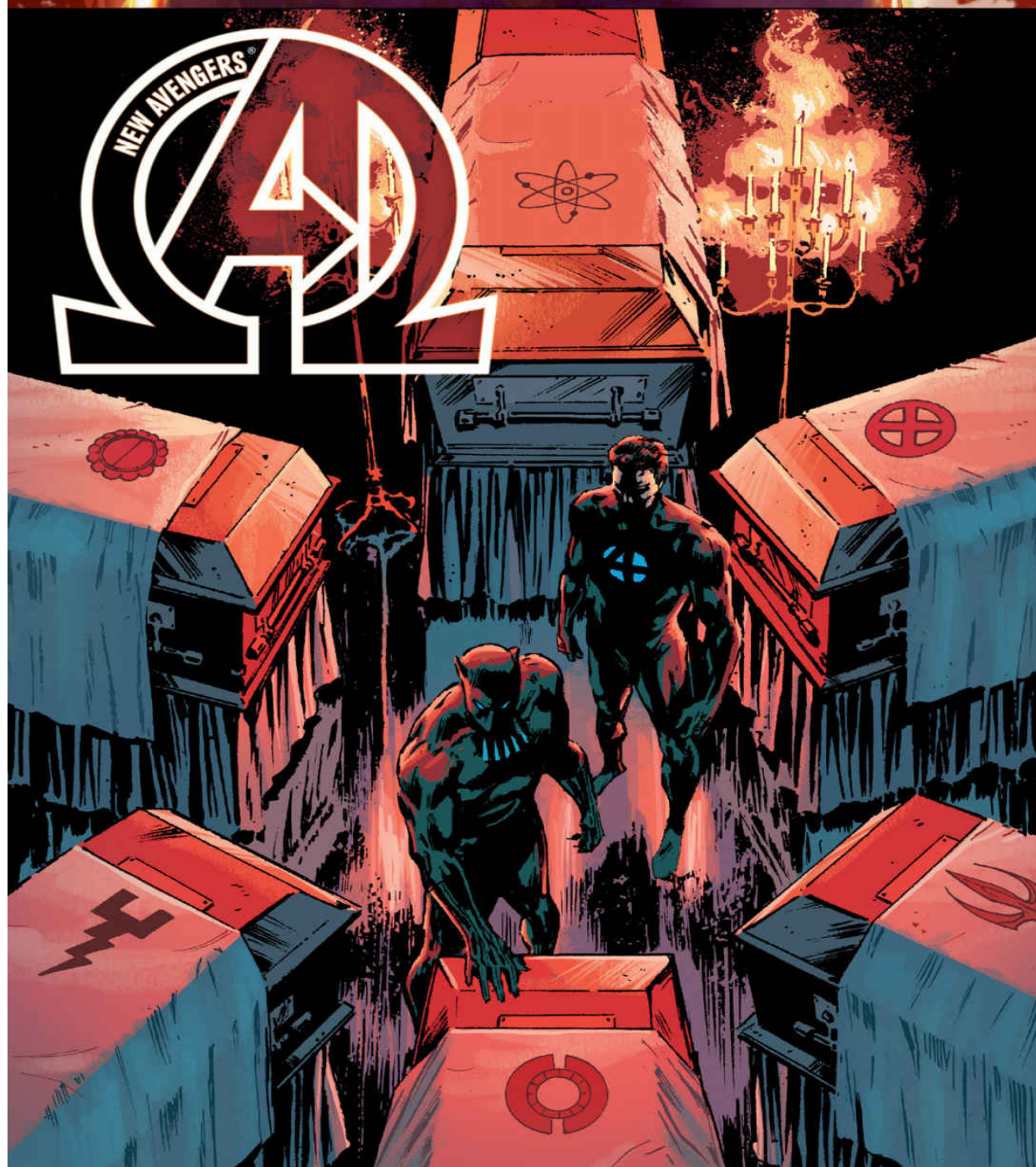


"SO IF YOU PRAY,
PRAY THAT I AM NOT
FOUND WANTING..."

"AND INSTEAD
AM WORTHY OF SUCH
A GLORIOUS END."

TO BE CONTINUED...

IN 7 MONTHS ... TIME RUNS OUT!



MARVEL

**HICKMAN
WALKER
MARTIN**

025

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS



EIGHT MONTHS LATER



THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah



REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder



YELLOWJACKET
Size-Shifting Scientist



BEAST
Mutant Genius



DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead



**THE HULK/
"DOC GREEN"**
Strongest There Is



CAPTAIN BRITAIN
Multiverse Protector



AMADEUS CHO
Mathematics Wunderkind



IRON MAN
Master of Machines



“WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE WORLD WOKE UP”

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **KEY WALKER**

COLOR ARTISTS: **FRANK MARTIN & DAVID CUIEL**

LETTERER: **VC's JOE CARAMAGNA**

COVER ART: **BUTCH GUICE & MATTHEW WILSON**

VARIANT COVER ART: **KEVIN NOWLAN**

ASSISTANT EDITOR: **JAKE THOMAS**

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DAY ONE.

I THINK
WE'VE LOST
OUR WAY.



ALL WE
NEED IS A
LITTLE
LIGHT.

ANY LUCK
ON THAT
FRONT, HENRY?
TIME'S A
FACTOR.

I THINK
SO...

AND YOU
CAN'T RUSH
GREATNESS,
REED, WITHOUT
PATIE--

BZZZ!

AH!
THERE, THAT
SHOULD
DO IT.

TRY IT
NOW.

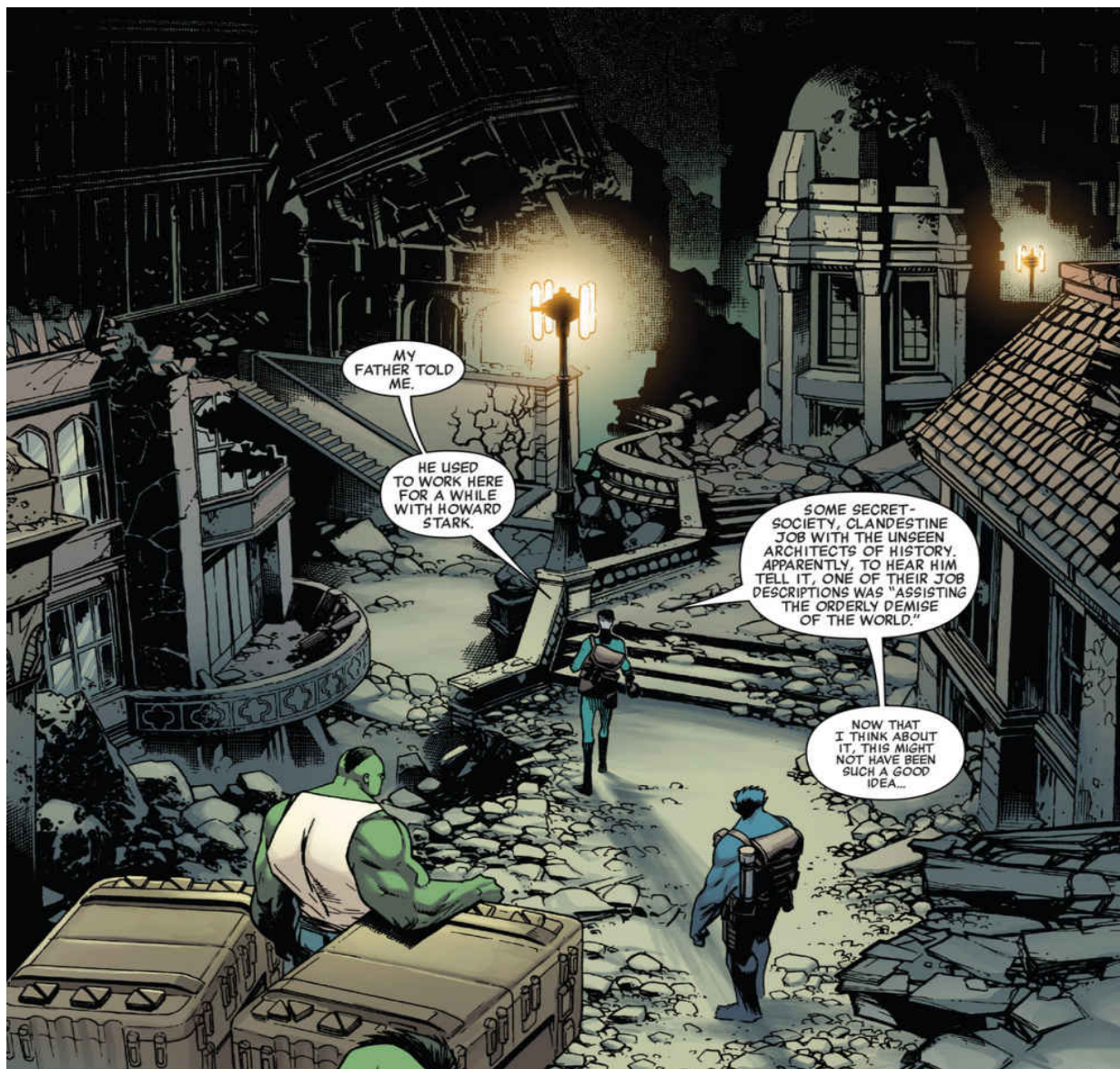


HERE
GOES.

CLANG!



HRMPT!
HOW'D
YOU FIND OUT
ABOUT THIS
PLACE?



MY FATHER TOLD ME.

HE USED TO WORK HERE FOR A WHILE WITH HOWARD STARK.

SOME SECRET-SOCIETY, CLANDESTINE JOB WITH THE UNSEEN ARCHITECTS OF HISTORY. APPARENTLY, TO HEAR HIM TELL IT, ONE OF THEIR JOB DESCRIPTIONS WAS "ASSISTING THE ORDERLY DEMISE OF THE WORLD."

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN SUCH A GOOD IDEA...

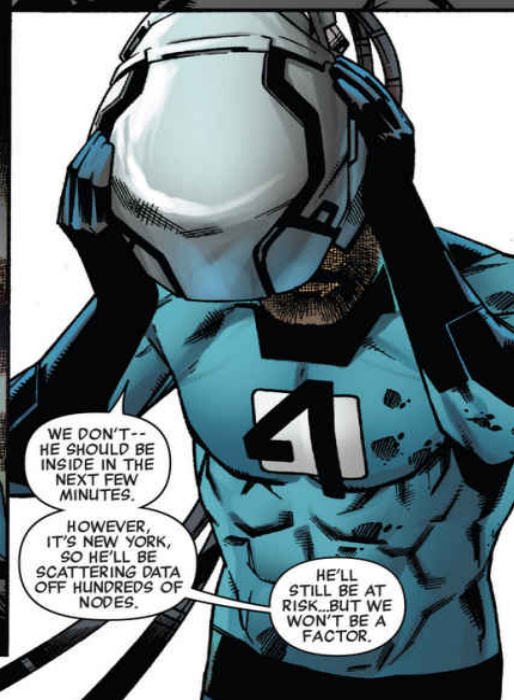


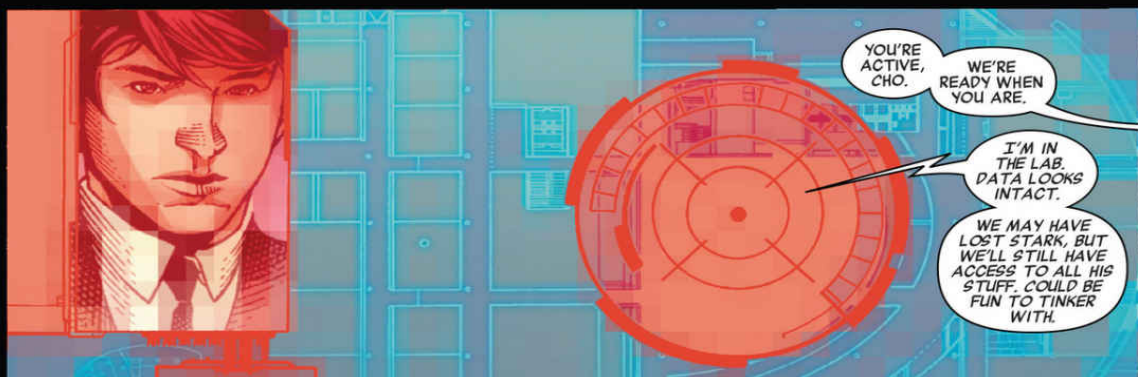
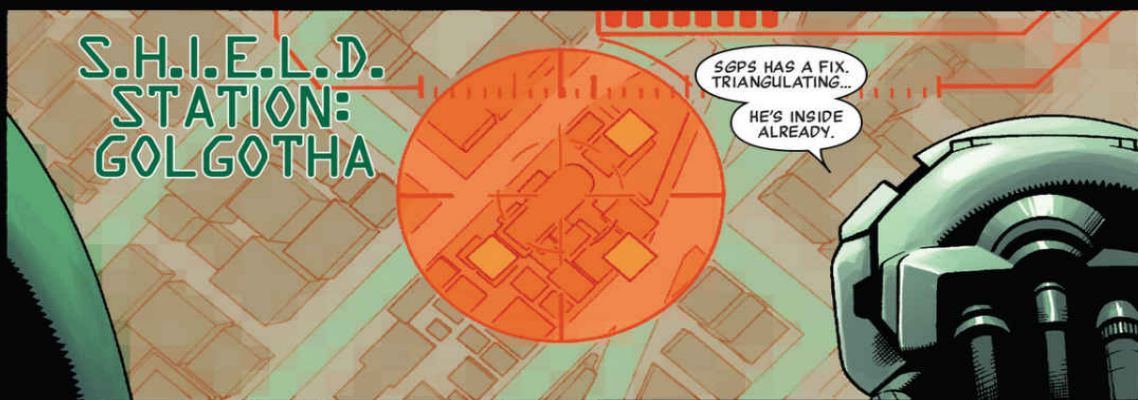
OR MAYBE IT'S PERFECT.

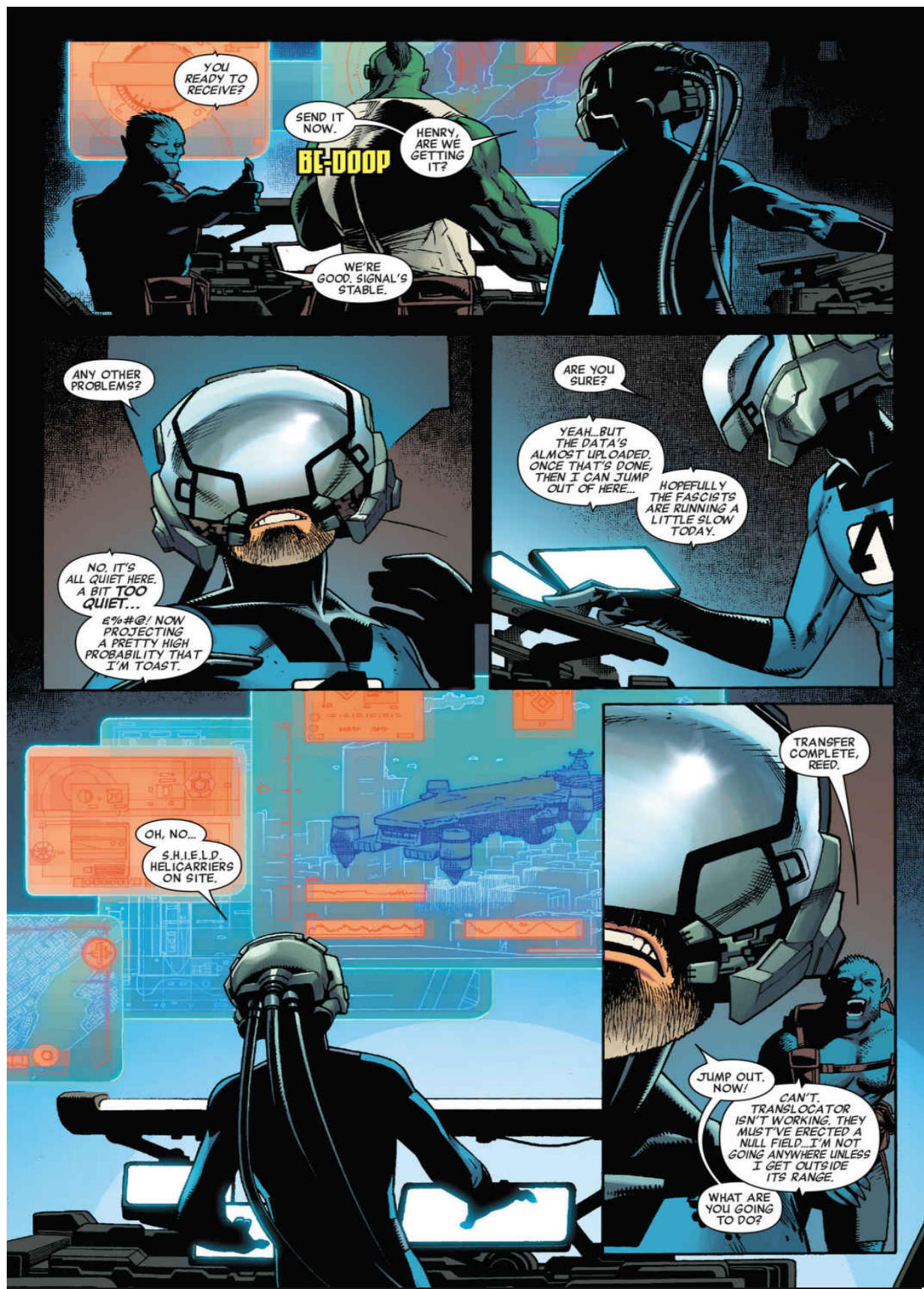
"OH, WE BROTHERS OF ABYSS. LOST SOULS WHO LIGHT THE FALL. DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF OUR WELL, EARNED HELL."

NICE, BYRON?

NO...







YOU
READY TO
RECEIVE?

SEND IT
NOW.

BE-DOOP

HENRY,
ARE WE
GETTING
IT?

WE'RE
GOOD. SIGNAL'S
STABLE.

ANY OTHER
PROBLEMS?

NO. IT'S
ALL QUIET HERE.
A BIT TOO
QUIET...

8%#@! NOW
PROJECTING
A PRETTY HIGH
PROBABILITY THAT
I'M TOAST.

ARE YOU
SURE?

YEAH... BUT
THE DATA'S
ALMOST UPLOADED.
ONCE THAT'S DONE,
THEN I CAN JUMP
OUT OF HERE...

HOPEFULLY
THE FASCISTS
ARE RUNNING A
LITTLE SLOW
TODAY.

OH, NO...
S.H.I.E.L.D.
HELICARRIERS
ON SITE.

TRANSFER
COMPLETE,
REED.

JUMP OUT.
NOW!

CAN'T.
TRANSLATOR
ISN'T WORKING. THEY
MUST'VE ERECTED A
NULL FIELD... I'M NOT
GOING ANYWHERE UNLESS
I GET OUTSIDE
ITS RANGE.

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?



DAY TWO.

OKAY. IT'S
CONNECTED.

ANYONE
CARE TO EXPLAIN
TO ME WHY WE
DON'T JUST TRY
TO CONTACT CHO
THE WAY WE DID
EARLIER?

THE HUNTED
MUST ALWAYS BE
MORE CAUTIOUS
THAN THE HUNTER,
CAPTAIN.

TO SAY NOTHING OF
THE FACT THAT HE'S
PROBABLY BEING DETAINED
IN A S.H.I.E.L.D. BLACK BOX
FACILITY...BUT WE
CAN'T BE SURE,
CAN WE?

OH. AND THAT
COMMUNICATION
GEAR HE WAS
WEARING EARLIER?
MOST LIKELY
CONFISCATED.

BUT IT'S
WORSE THAN
THAT...

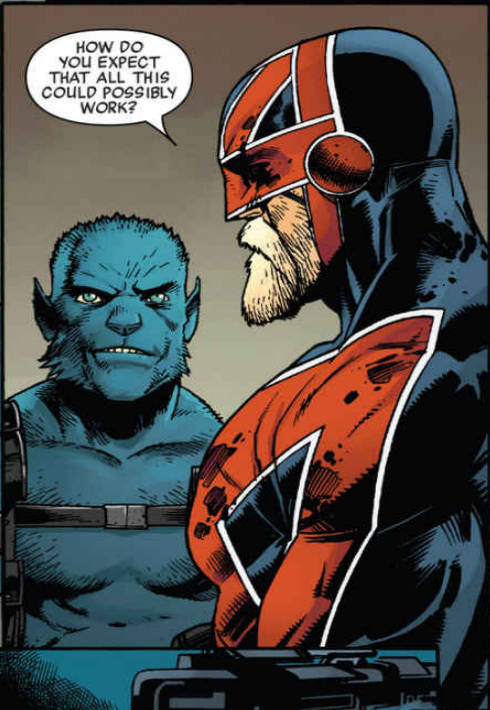
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S
GOTTEN INCREDIBLY
AGGRESSIVE.

IT WAS BAD
ENOUGH WHEN THEIR
PSI-AGENTS STARTED RUNNING
GLOBAL SWEEPS FOR OUR BRAIN
SIGNATURES, BUT IN THE LAST
COUPLE MONTHS, THEY'VE
SYSTEMICALLY ATTACKED AND
CRIPPLED EVERY TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANTAGE WE'D
PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED.

WHY DO YOU THINK WE JUST STARTED TRAVELING COACH, CAPTAIN? THREE WEEKS AGO, THEY CRACKED OUR TRANSLOCATING ABILITY--WE JUMP SOMEWHERE AND THEY'LL TRIANGULATE THAT SIGNAL AND BE ON TOP OF US FASTER THAN WE CAN SET UP OUR MOBILE LAB.



HOW DO YOU EXPECT THAT ALL THIS COULD POSSIBLY WORK?



WELL, CAPTAIN, THEY'RE SMART...

BUT THEY'RE NOT *THAT* SMART.



YOU KNOW THE IMPLANT I GAVE YOU MONTHS AGO WHEN YOU JOINED US?

OF COURSE.

YOU SAID IT WAS NECESSARY-- THAT YOU ALL HAD THEM.





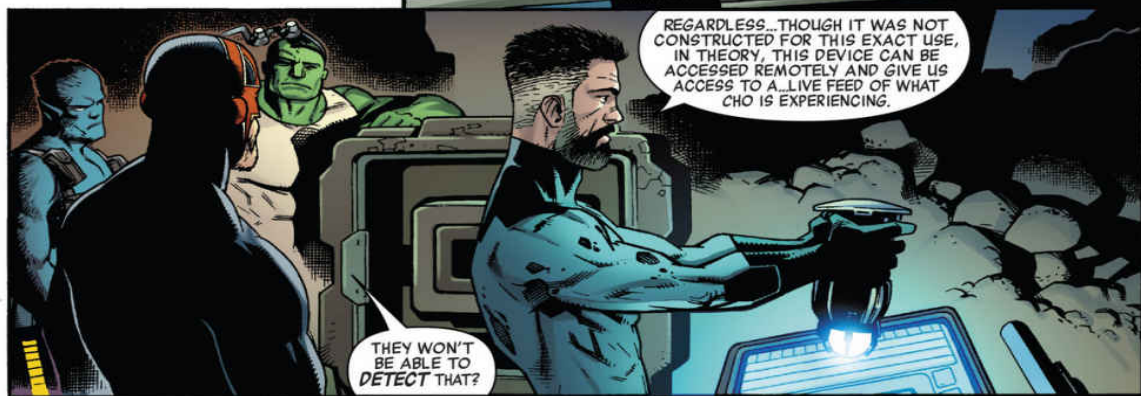
CORRECT. AND WHILE ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION IS DISTORTING OUR BRAIN SIGNATURES TO EVADE DETECTION, IT ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE MOST ADVANCED TRACKING/RECORDING SYSTEM EVER INVENTED.



BY A HUMAN.

THAT'S TRUE. THANK YOU, HENRY.

ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW TO STRIVE FOR.



REGARDLESS...THOUGH IT WAS NOT CONSTRUCTED FOR THIS EXACT USE, IN THEORY, THIS DEVICE CAN BE ACCESSED REMOTELY AND GIVE US ACCESS TO A...LIVE FEED OF WHAT CHO IS EXPERIENCING.

THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DETECT THAT?



THE DEVICE ALGORITHMICALLY HOPS MODES AND FREQUENCIES THOUSANDS OF TIMES A MILLISECOND. UNLESS YOU KNOW THE PARAMETERS, THE DEVICE IS UNDETECTABLE.

OUR ACCESS OF THE DEVICE... THAT'S A LITTLE MORE TRICKY. MOST S.H.I.E.L.D. FACILITIES ARE HARD-SHIELDED AGAINST SUCH ATTEMPTS OF THIS NATURE...



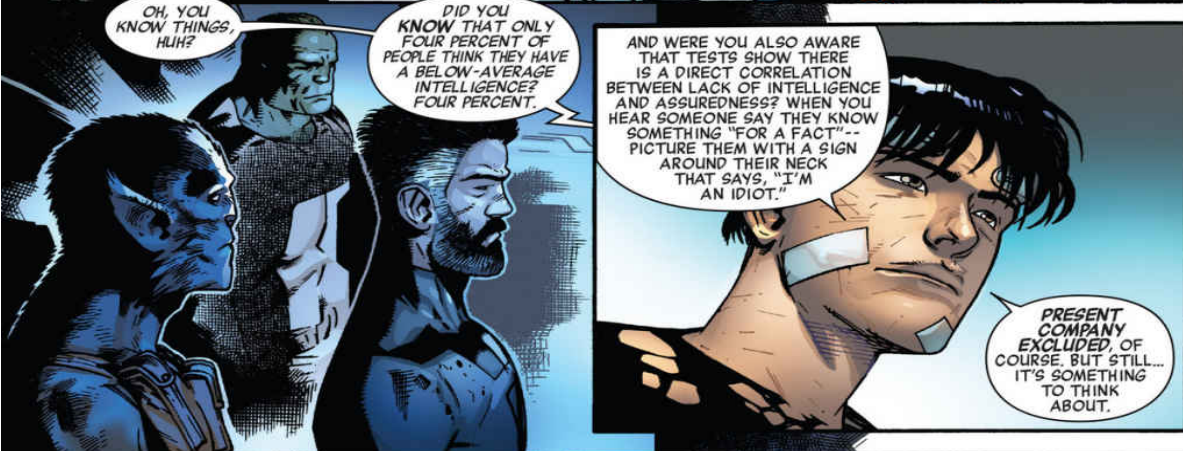
BUT I THINK, BY BOUNCING-- AND AMPLIFYING--THE SIGNAL THROUGH THE PLANET'S DESCENDENT CORE, I MIGHT BE... AH!



FOUR HOURS LATER.















WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?

TOGETHER, TONY AND I ENACTED SEVERAL **CONTINGENCY PLANS** WHEN WE FIRST LEARNED OF WHAT WE WERE FACING. YOU KNOW ABOUT SOME OF THOSE:

THE AVENGERS MACHINE, THE EXPLORER PROTOCOLS, OTHER, LESS PRACTICAL IDEAS...

PYM?

YES. AND THEN BEYOND THAT, THERE WERE THE THINGS WE CREATED INDIVIDUALLY. TONY-- HE BUILT WEAPONS-- AND HE BUILT THEM WELL.

THIS IS **SOL'S HAMMER**.



HOW MANY FILES ARE THERE?

WELL, THEY'RE NOT ALL RELEVANT. THERE APPEARS TO BE A DATABASE OF PHONE NUMBERS AND A TRULY SKETCHY SCORING SYSTEM, CORPORATE HOLDINGS, BANK ACCOUNTS...

BUT AT FIRST GLANCE, THE WEAPONS FILES APPEAR TO BE...ROBUST.



I'M COUNTING **SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE** SEPARATE DESIGNS.







IN 7 MONTHS ... TIME RUNS OUT!



MARVEL

HICKMAN
DEODATO
MARTIN

037
AR

PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS



EIGHT MONTHS LATER





S.H.I.E.L.D. AVENGERS



STEVE
ROGERS



HAWKEYE



MARIA
HILL



WAR MACHINE
DRONES



INVISIBLE
WOMAN



CAPTAIN
AMERICA



CAPTAIN
MARVEL

MULTIVERSAL AVENGERS



HYPERION

NEW AVENGERS



SUNSPOT

THE ILLUMINATI



BEAST



HULK/
DOC GREEN



MISTER
FANTASTIC



BLACK
BOLT



BLACK
PANTHER



CAPTAIN
BRITAIN

THE CABAL



NAMOR



TERRAX



“ARCHANGEL”

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **MIKE DEODATO**

COLOR ARTIST: **FRANK MARTIN**

LETTERER: **VC's CORY PETIT**

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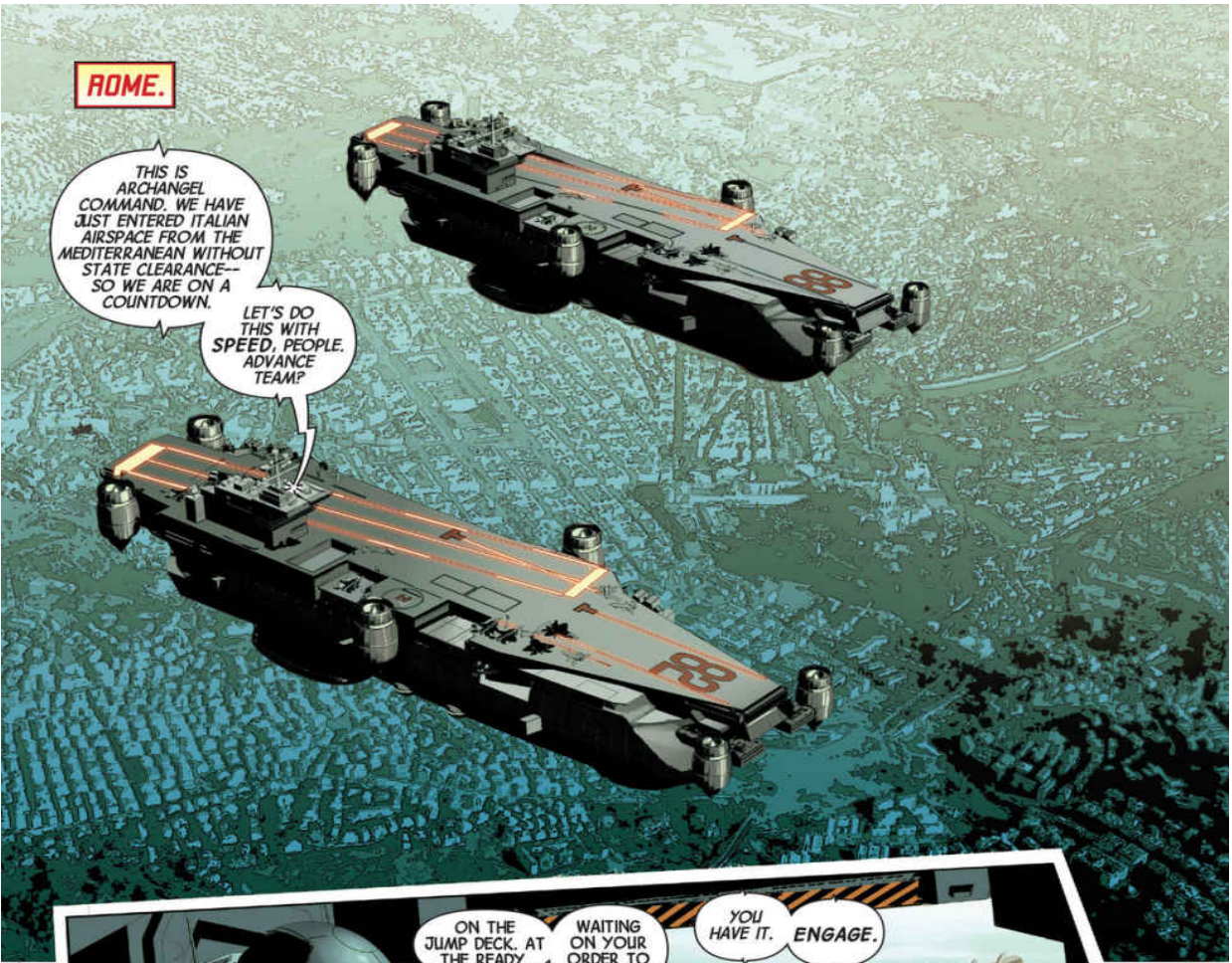
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ROME.

THIS IS
ARCHANGEL
COMMAND. WE HAVE
JUST ENTERED ITALIAN
AIRSPACE FROM THE
MEDITERRANEAN WITHOUT
STATE CLEARANCE--
SO WE ARE ON A
COUNTDOWN.

LET'S DO
THIS WITH
SPEED, PEOPLE.
ADVANCE
TEAM?



ON THE
JUMP DECK. AT
THE READY.

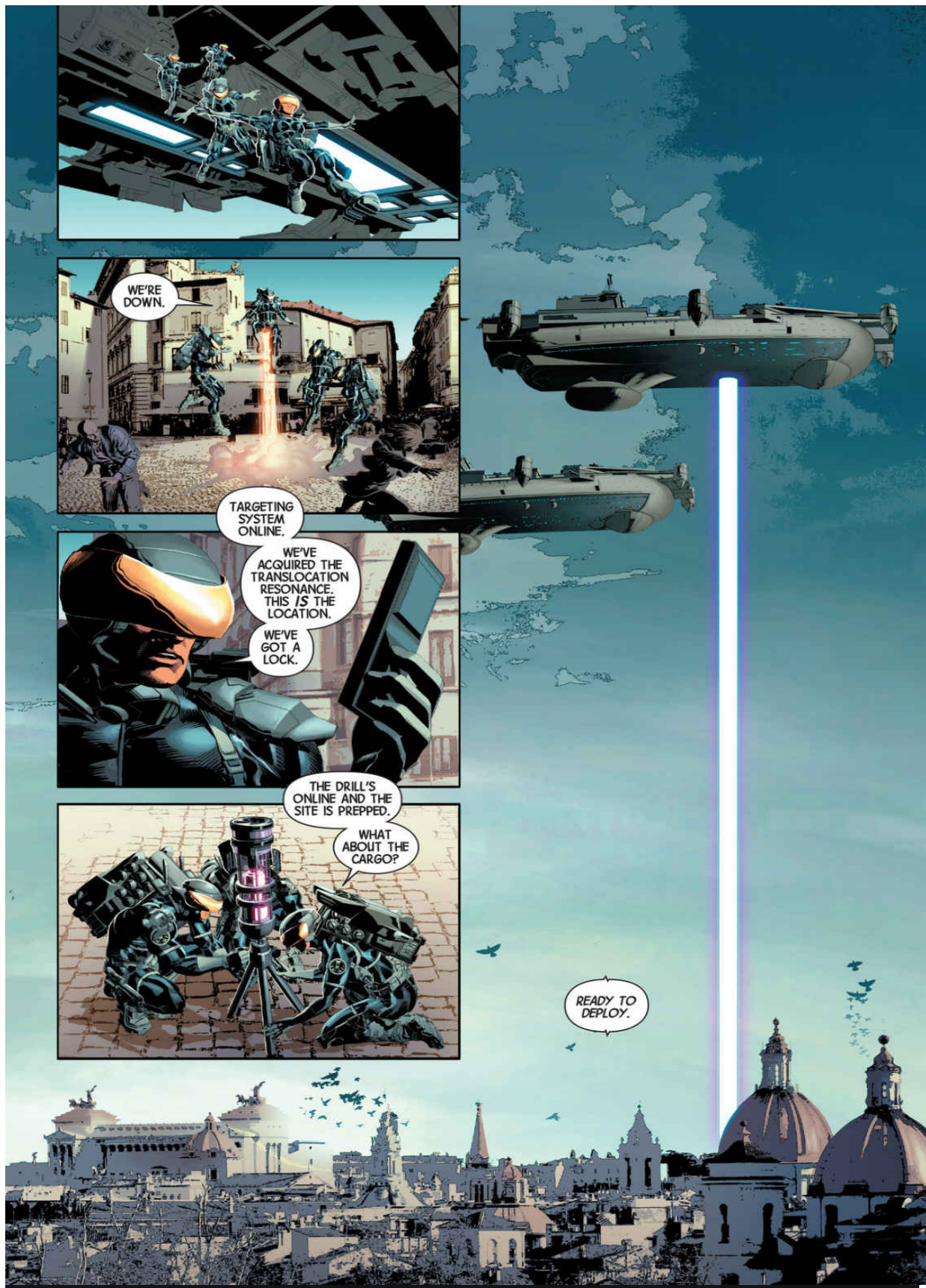
WAITING
ON YOUR ORDER TO
ENGAGE.

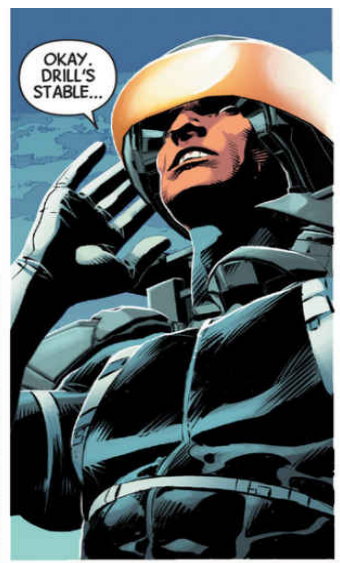
YOU
HAVE IT. **ENGAGE.**



GO! GO!
GO!









FROM THE SKY WE'RE GETTING NOTHING ON THERMALS. AND MOTION TRACKING IS UNRELIABLE DUE TO THE DENSITY AND AGE OF THE CITY. SO BE CAREFUL.

YEAH. WILL DO...

BUT YOUR CONCERN MIGHT BE WASTED--I THINK WE'RE TOO LATE. AGAIN.

NOTHING DOWN HERE BUT ME AND--

IT'S A QUANDARY, ISN'T IT? A CHOICE THAT REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT TO ACTION.

GOT SOMETHING.

STAND BY...

OH.

DAMN.

WHAT IS IT?

TOUGH TO EXPLAIN. YOU NEED TO GET DOWN HERE, STEVE...





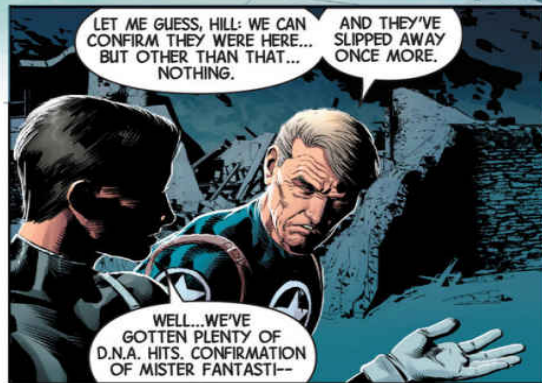
LATER.



FORENSIC TEAMS ARE COMBING THROUGH THE PLACE WITH A FINE-TOOTHED COMB.

WE'RE USING PRETTY MUCH EVERY TRICK WE HAVE. MICROSCOPIC D.N.A. TRACERS, RESIDUE SNIFFERS LOOKING FOR LATENT POWER SIGNATURES...

EVEN THE PSI-AGENTS ARE WORKING IN A LOW-YIELD TEMPORAL CAGE TO TRY TO PICK UP ANY STRAY THOUGHTS THEY MIGHT HAVE LEFT BEHIND.



LET ME GUESS, HILL: WE CAN CONFIRM THEY WERE HERE... BUT OTHER THAN THAT... NOTHING.

AND THEY'VE SLIPPED AWAY ONCE MORE.

WELL...WE'VE GOTTEN PLENTY OF D.N.A. HITS. CONFIRMATION OF MISTER FANTASTI--



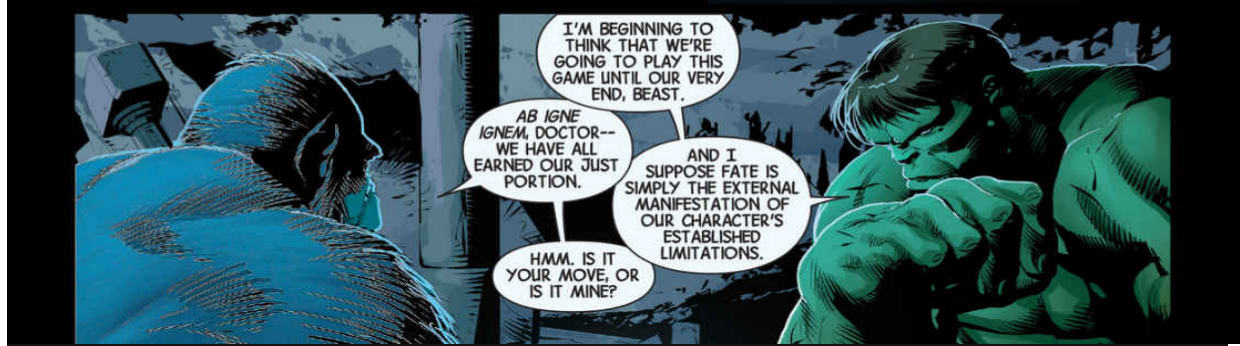
DON'T DO THAT.

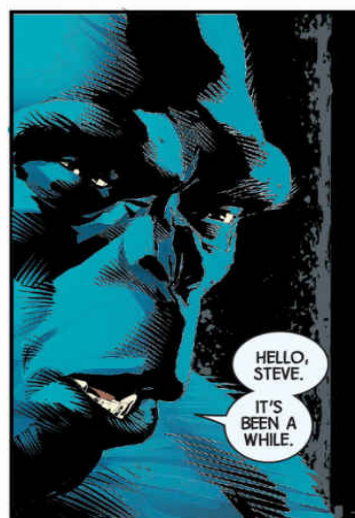
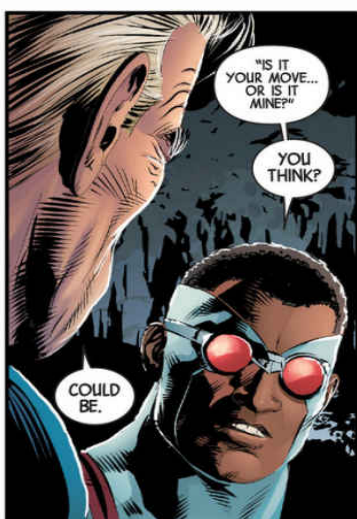


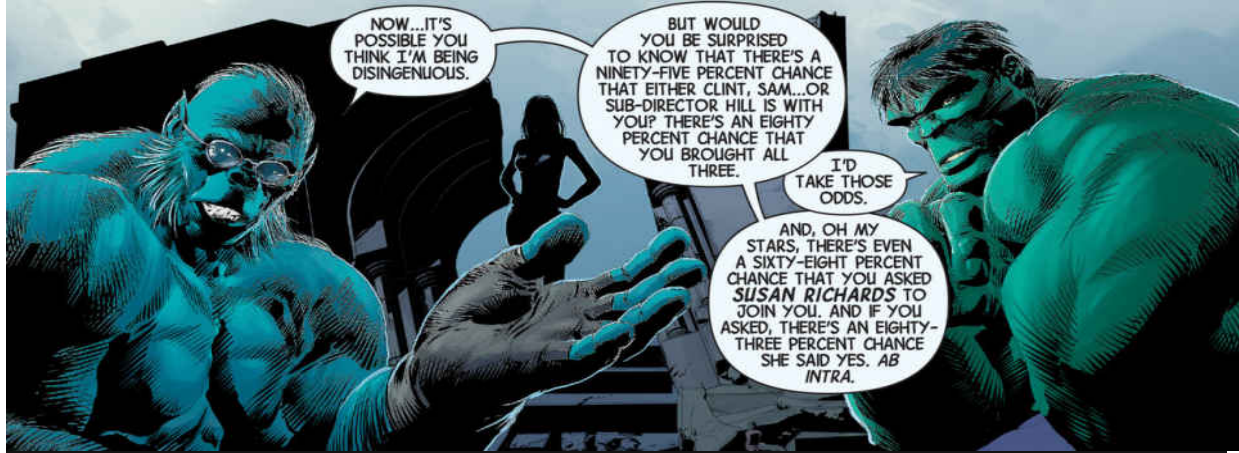
DO WHAT?

DON'T REFER TO THESE PEOPLE BY *THOSE NAMES*. THAT'S NOT WHO THEY ARE ANYMORE.

THEY DON'T GET TO HAVE THAT.









SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?
WHY, PRAY TELL, AM I TELLING YOU ALL THIS?



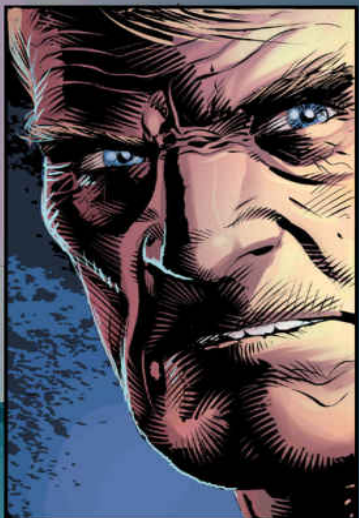
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET **SERIOUS** ABOUT CATCHING US...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH YOUR SHORTCOMINGS AND ADJUST ACCORDINGLY.



AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT PLAYING A GAME WITH SOME KIND OF **ARBITRARY RULES**, STEVE.
WE'RE PLAYING YOU.



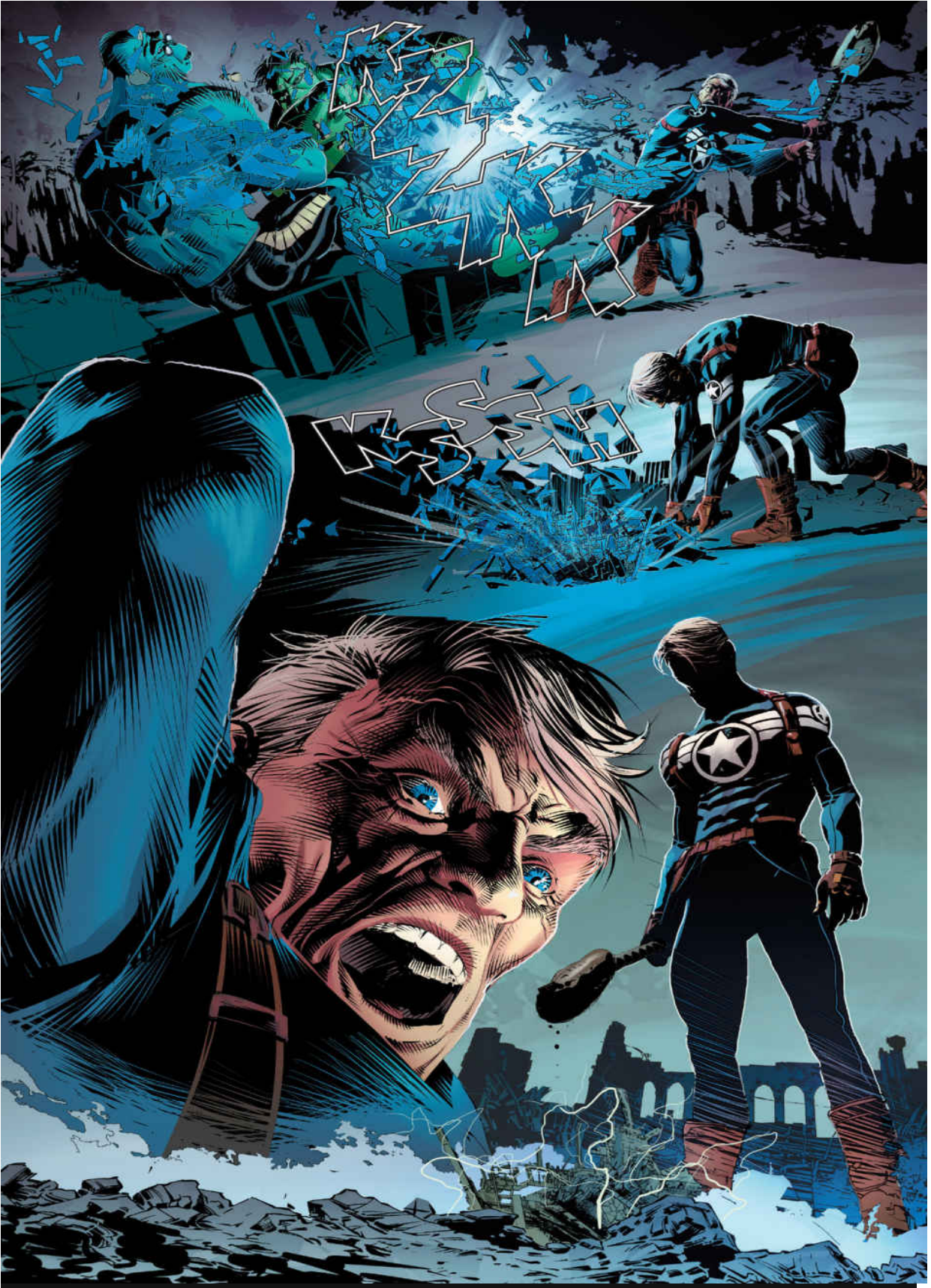
BETTER LIP YOUR GAME...
SON.

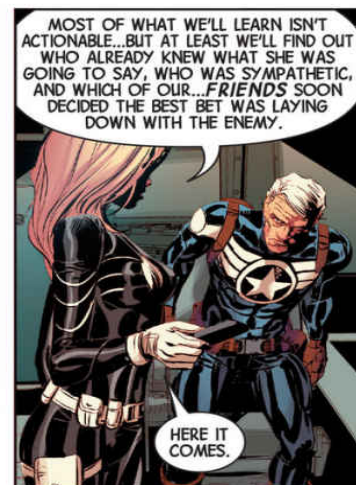
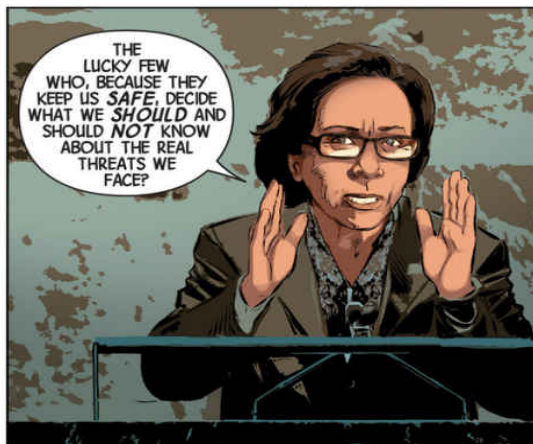
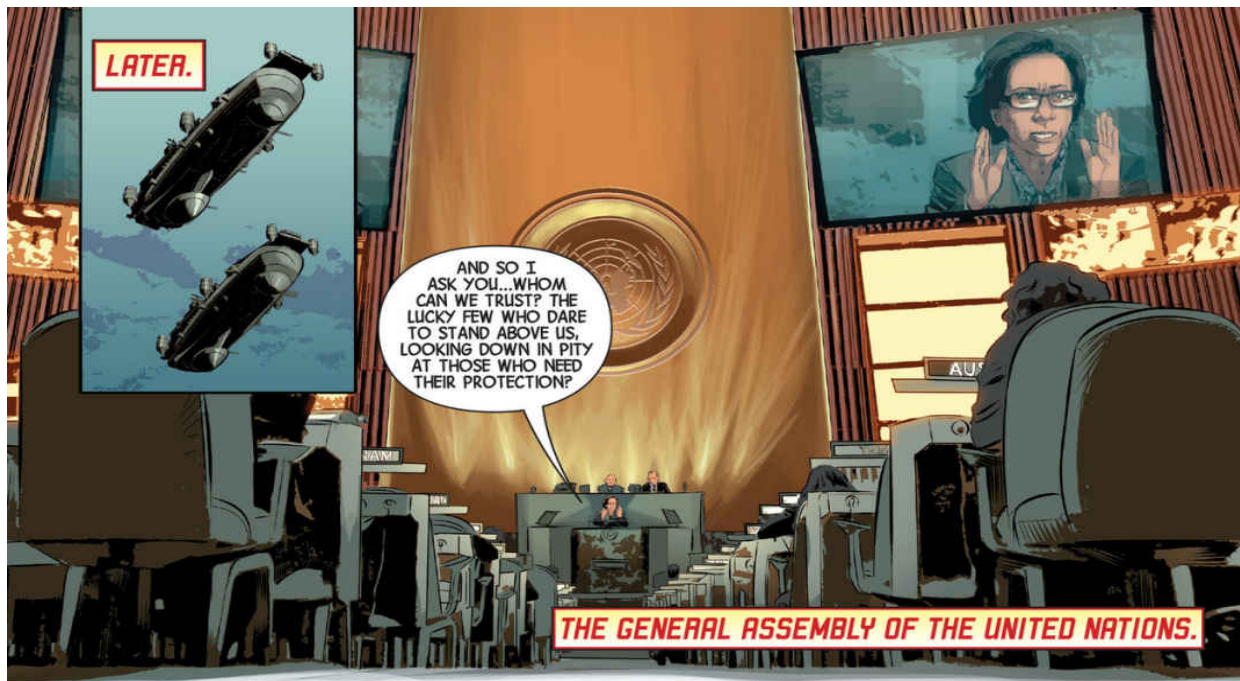


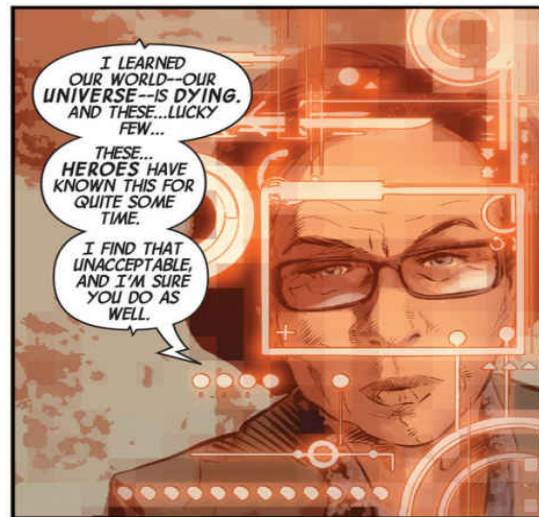
STEVE, I...

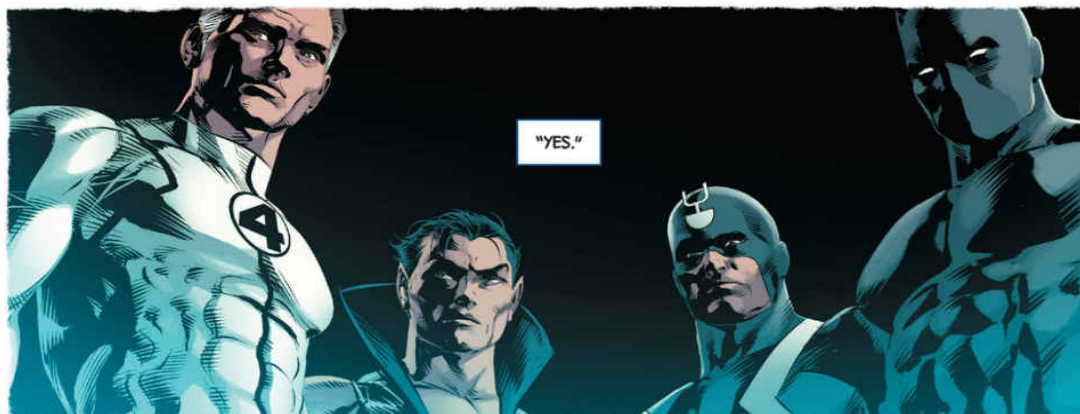
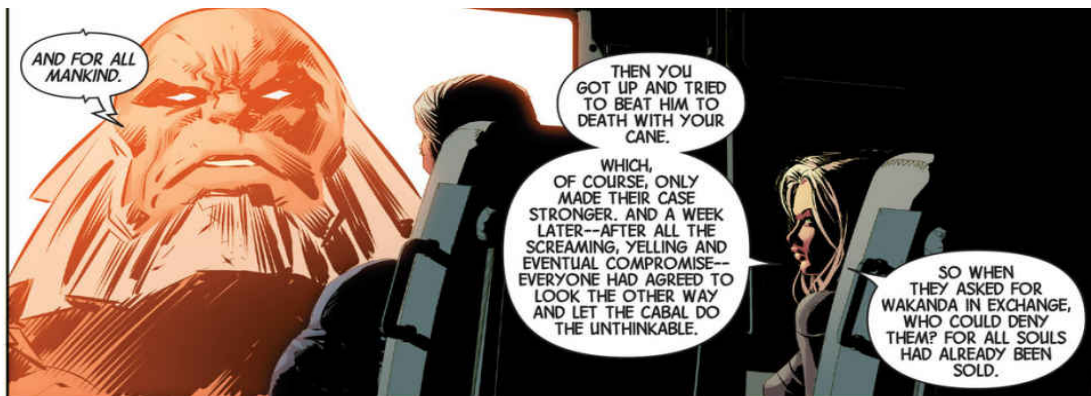
NO. WE'RE DONE HERE. I WANT EVERYONE TO PACK UP.



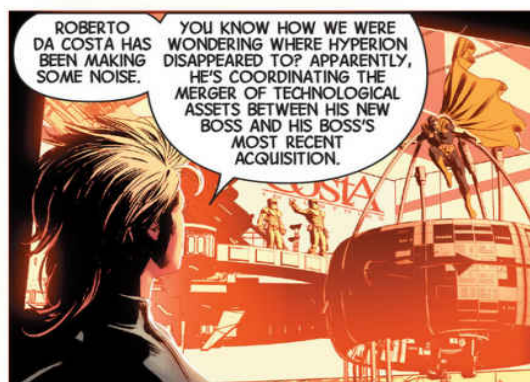


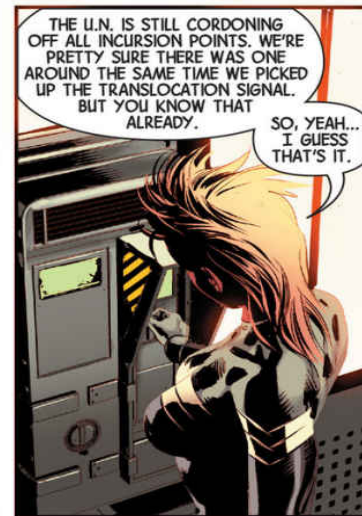
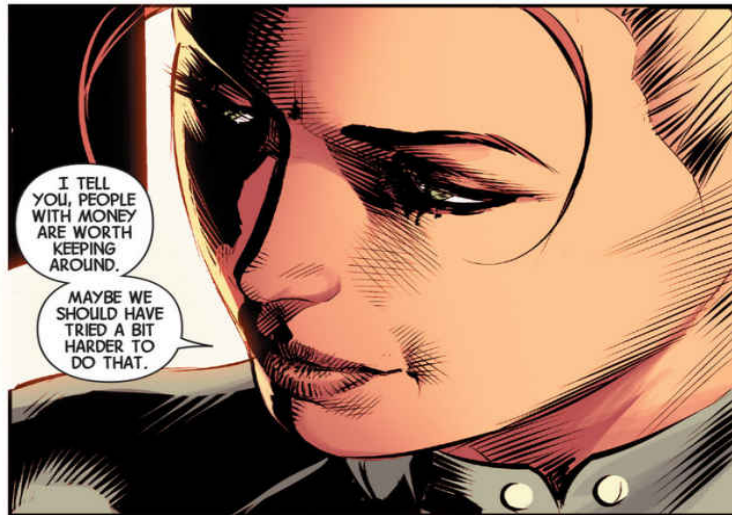
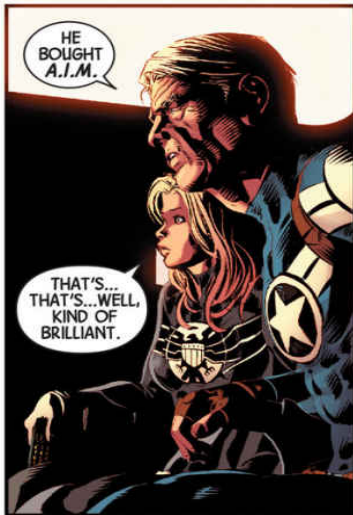


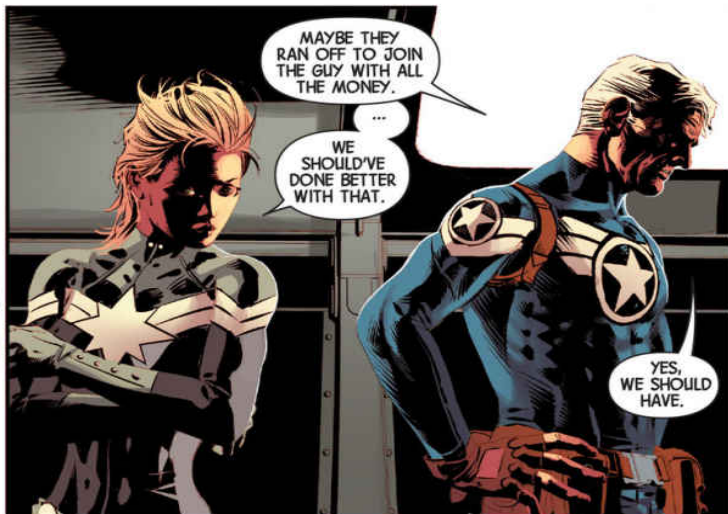
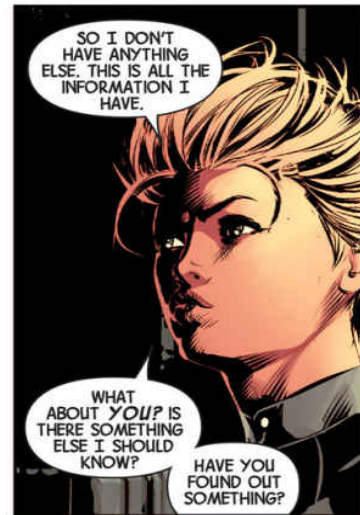
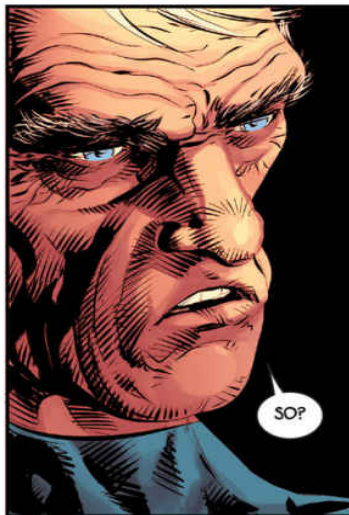




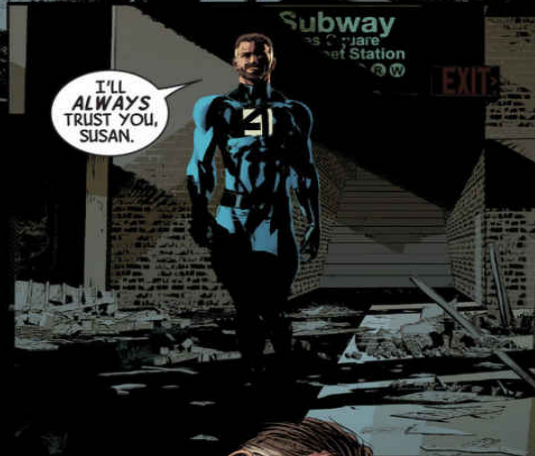


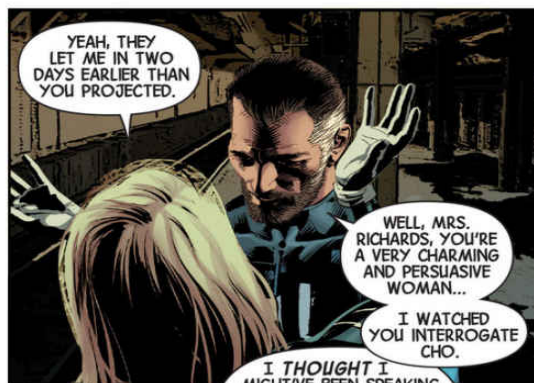














I SHOULD NEVER HAVE DONE THAT.

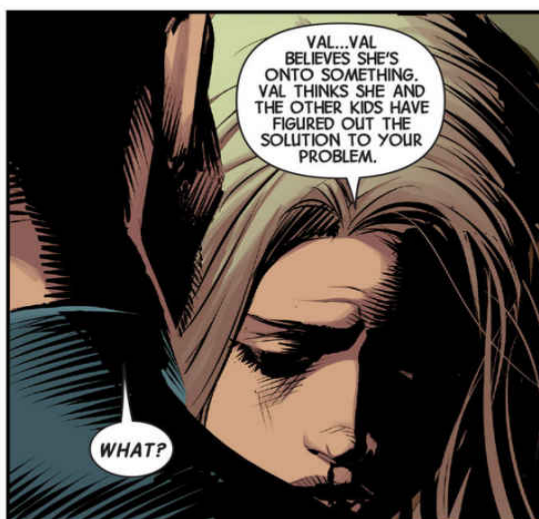
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE ASKED...I...

I KNOW, WE ALL KNOW.

HE'S JUST HURTING.



AND VAL?



VAL...VAL BELIEVES SHE'S ONTO SOMETHING. VAL THINKS SHE AND THE OTHER KIDS HAVE FIGURED OUT THE SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEM.

WHAT?



SHE WANTED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.

DID YOU LOOK AT IT?

I DID, AND THEN I ALMOST DIDN'T BRING IT.

BUT YOU DID...



AND NOW I HAVE TO GO.





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